Table of Contents

1. ALLEGIANCES and More!
2. Prologue
3. Chapter 1
4. Chapter 2
5. Chapter 3
6. Chapter 4
7. Another A/N
8. Chapter 5
9. Chapter 6
10. Some Character References
11. Chapter 7
12. UPDATED ALLEGIANCES
13. Chapter 8
14. Chapter 9
15. Chapter 10
16. Chapter 11
17. Info on the Story's Placement in the Warriors Timeline
18. Some Fun Facts
19. Chaper 12
20. Chapter 13
21. Chapter 14
22. Chapter 15
23. Chapter 16
24. Chapter 17
25. Chapter 18
26. Chapter 19
27. UPDATED ALLEGIANCES
28. Chapter 20
29. Chapter 21
30. Chapter 22
31. BONUS: Duskstar's Lives
32. UPDATED ALLEGIANCES
33. Chapter 23
34. Future Plans

35. Chapter 24
36. Chapter 25
37. Chapter 26
38. Chapter 27
39. Chapter 28
40. Chapter 29
41. Chapter 30

ALLEGIANCES and More!

[image]

These are the allegiances of Addertooth's Story. The story takes place at the lake territory from the Warriors series, with all 5 clans.

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER Hawkstar— Solid brown she-cat with amber eyes

DEPUTY Pineshade— Dark gray tom with green eyes

MEDICINE CAT Acornfall— Light brown tabby tom with blue eyes
APPRENTICE, Cloudpaw (white she-cat with blue eyes)

WARRIORS Ebonyfrost— Brown-and-white she-cat
Spikepelt— Gray-and-white tom with messy fur
Beetlenose— Black tom
APPRENTICE, Smokepaw (dark gray she-cat)
Mousetuft— Pale brown she-cat
Flamepelt— Dark ginger tabby tom
APPRENTICE, Duskpaw (gray she-cat)
Frogleap— Black-and-white tom
APPRENTICE, Applepaw (ginger tom)
Wolfclaw— Gray tabby she-cat
Icewhisker— White she-cat
Swiftfang— Black tom
Fernpool— Black-and-gray she-cat

QUEENS Ivycloud— Gray-and-white she-cat with amber eyes (mother to Adderkit, a brown tabby tom-kit with blue eyes; Ashkit, a gray she-kit; and Marshkit; a gray-and-white tom-kit)

ELDERS Jaggedfoot— Black-and-white tom
Nightbreeze— Black she-cat
Juniperleaf— Ginger she-cat
Jayflight— Blueish gray tom

THUNDERCLAN

LEADER Buzzardstar— Black tom with blue eyes

DEPUTY Briarclaw— Gray tabby tom

MEDICINE CATS Flintpelt— Gray tom
Goldenfeather— Ginger-and-white she-cat

WARRIORS Lakeshine— Silver tabby she-cat
Olivepatch— Black-and-white tom
Owlwing— Gray-and-white she-cat
APPRENTICE, Russetpaw (ginger she-cat)
Dappledpelt— Tortoiseshell-and-white she-cat
APPRENTICE, Sparrowpaw (brown tom)
Finchflight— Gray tom
APPRENTICE, Rosepaw (brown-and-white she-cat)
Oakbranch— Dark cream tom
Mintleaf— Brown tabby she-cat
Molefur— Brown tom
Lionpounce— Ginger tom
Lilypetal— White she-cat
Smallpoppy— Tortoiseshell she-cat
Dewstone— Gray-and-white tabby tom
Thistleseed— Golden-brown tabby she-cat

QUEENS Paledawn— Cream she-cat (mother to Waspkit, a pale gray tabby tom-kit; and Violetkit— a cream she-kit)

ELDERS Seedfall— Ginger she-cat
Rockshade— Gray-and-white tabby tom
Cinderfur— Dark gray she-cat

WINDCLAN

LEADER Mothstar— Pale brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes

DEPUTY Mudstep— Brown tom

MEDICINE CAT Nectarmist— Pale ginger she-cat

WARRIORS Stormwind— Dark gray tom
Weedwhisker— Brown tom
APPRENTICE, Quickpaw (Gray tabby tom)
Whitebird— White she-cat
Snakefang— Gray tabby tom
APPRENTICE, Ravenpaw (black tom)
Mistysky— Pale gray she-cat
Blackpelt— Black tom
Daisystem— Black-and-white she-cat
Sunflame— Ginger tom
APPRENTICE, Petalpaw (Tortoiseshell she-cat)
Hazelclaw— Tortoiseshell she-cat
Stagdust— Brown tabby tom
Yelloweyes— Black she-cat
Rabbitear— Pale brown tom

QUEENS Dovewhisper (Gray she-cat)

ELDERS Dawnberry— Brown tabby she-cat

RIVERCLAN

LEADER Otterstar— Brown tom with green eyes

DEPUTY Splashleap— Silver tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT Blueshine— Blueish gray she-cat
APPRENTICE, Blizzardpaw (white tom)

WARRIORS Troutfin— Brown tabby tom
Willowheart— Gray-and-white tabby she-cat
APPRENTICE, Puddlepaw (brown-and-white tom)
Ripplecreek- Gray tabby tom
Sweetberry- Tortoiseshell she-cat
APPRENTICE, Shellpaw (brown she-cat)
Sandfern- Pale ginger tom
Reedstorm- Brown tabby tom
Primrosefrost- Pale brown tabby she-cat
Needleclaw- Black-and-white tom
Moonfeather- White she-cat with black splotches

Minnowfur- Silver tabby she-cat
Cloverbush- Brown tom
Darkcloud- Black tom

QUEENS Duskshadow— Black-and-white she-cat

ELDERS Dapplefoot— Tortoiseshell she-cat
Emberfur— Ginger tom

SKYCLAN

LEADER Honeystar— Pale brown tabby she-cat with yellow eyes

DEPUTY Leopardspot— Dappled ginger tom

MEDICINE CAT Littlepoppy— Golden-brown tabby she-cat

WARRIORS Brightflame— Ginger-and-white tom
Sootpelt— Gray tom
APPRENTICE, Strikepaw (black-and-white tom)
Whitecloud— White she-cat
Twigshade— Black tom
Shrewfur— Brown tom
APPRENTICE, Spottedpaw (dappled ginger she-cat)
Rainbreeze— Gray tabby she-cat
Birchleaf— Brown-and-white she-cat
APPRENTICE, Robinpaw (dark ginger she-cat)
Lightningclaw— Dark brown tom
APPRENTICE, Crowpaw (black she-cat)
Foxtail— Golden-brown tom
Badgerscar— Black-and-white tom
Eaglefeather— Brown tabby tom
Blossomsnow— Gray-and-white she-cat
Echowhisper— Gray she-cat

QUEENS Tawnytuft— Ginger-and-white she-cat (mother to Bristlekit, a ginger she-kit)

ELDERS Fallenbranch— Brown tabby tom

WARRIOR CODE

Defend your Clan, even with your life. You may have friendships with cats from other Clans, but your loyalty must remain to your Clan, as one day you may meet them in battle.

Do not hunt or trespass on another Clan's territory.

Elders, queens, and kits must be fed before apprentices and warriors. Unless they have permission, apprentices may not eat until they have hunted to feed the elders. If any warrior or apprentice is sick or injured, they may eat while the elders, queens, and kits are eating.

Prey is killed only to be eaten. Give thanks to StarClan for its life.

A kit must be at least six moons old to become an apprentice.

Newly appointed warriors will keep a silent vigil for one night after receiving their warrior name.

A cat cannot be made deputy without having mentored at least one apprentice.

The deputy will become Clan leader when the leader dies, retires or is exiled.

After the death or retirement of the deputy, the new deputy must be chosen before moonhigh.

A Gathering of all four Clans is held at the full moon during a truce that lasts for the night. There shall be no fighting among Clans at this time.

Boundaries must be checked and marked daily. Challenge all trespassing cats.

No warrior can neglect a kit in pain or danger, even if the kit is from a different Clan.

The word of the Clan leader is the warrior code.

An honorable warrior does not need to kill other cats to win their battles, unless they are outside the warrior code or if it is necessary for self-defense.

A warrior rejects the soft life of a kittypet.

Each Clan has the right to be proud and independent, but in times of trouble they must forget their boundaries and fight side by side to protect the four. Each Clan must help the others so that no Clan will fall.

Medicine Cat Code

A medicine cat may not fall in love or take a mate.
A medicine cat may not have kits.
A medicine cat may only retire when their apprentice is ready to take their place.
A medicine cat shares dreams with only StarClan.
A medicine cat may only discuss dreams, prophecies, etc. with their leader or other medicine cats at the monthly meeting; dreams of an otherwise prophetic nature should not be disclosed to any outside parties, or any other cats in the Clan.

Map

Prologue

"Acornfall?"

The brown tabby tom turns his head to face his leader and secret mate, a brown-furred she-cat.

"Hello Hawkstar." Acornfall replies, gazing at his mate lovingly. Hawkstar pads closer to the medicine cat and sits beside him, Silverpelt shining in the clear sky above them.

"Adderkit's apprentice ceremony will be tomorrow," Hawkstar announces. "I can't believe our only surviving kit will be an apprentice already," She meows, her gaze watching Acornfall with affection as his gaze meets her own.

"I can't believe it either," Acornfall meows, looking at his paws, his mind on their young son. "We need to make sure we keep our secrets though. No cat can know about this, even Adderkit himself. As far as every cat knows, Adderkit was just a lonely kit you found while going on a late night stroll," Acornfall meows. "I broke the medicine cat code twice at the same time, no cat should have to know, or the clan may want to punish me for what I did."

Hawkstar's eyes narrow, gazing at her dark brown paws. "That won't happen to you as long as I'm leader," She meows. "I promise that."

"Do *you* think he should know someday?" Acornfall then asks, wanting her opinion on the matter.

"I don't think we should tell him. The less cats that know, the better," Hawkstar replies, looking up at the night sky, hoping that her warrior ancestors would protect her secret.

"You're right, as always," Acornfall replies, gazing at Hawkstar with

a loving smirk. The tabby medicine cat yawns. "I'm going back to the medicine den." He meows, slowly padding away back towards the entrance of ShadowClan's camp.

"Okay," Hawkstar replies, staying where she is.

Then, Acornfall gasps in shock as the ground he is walking on suddenly changes to water. Acornfall tries to stay afloat in the water, keeping his head above the water, but he is struggling. He looks around frantically. The water is completely endless. There is no land in sight.

"H-Hawkstar?!" Acornfall meows loudly, gasping for air, but there is no response. Then, a dark gray figure that Acornfall recognizes appears, floating above the water. "Boulderstar? Is that you?" He asks. Boulderstar was ShadowClan's leader before Hawkstar. He only just joined StarClan a few moons ago. Hawkstar is very new to being Clan leader.

"Hello again, Acornfall," Boulderstar says. "It's been a while." He meows, gazing down at the helpless tabby.

"Why are you here? Are you going to give me a message?" Acornfall asks frantically, trying his best to stay afloat, kicking his legs. "Can you save me while you're here?"

Boulderstar purrs with amusement. "Why else do you think I'm here? I'm a part of StarClan now. Prophecies and omens are my job," He jokes. He then goes along with what he came to do. "*Many creatures such as foxes and badgers can be aggressive, but an adder will only bite when it has to. The inner turmoil of an adder is whether to bite or not, and sometimes it will make the wrong decisions*." Boulderstar says.

Acornfall was about to say something, but then he was brought back to reality. *I was just given a prophecy.. but what does it mean?* The tom thinks. *It wasn't in a dream either, it was a vision. What does the vision of water have to do with the prophecy?* The tom continues to think as he takes in his final gasp of air as he weakens and is submerged underneath the waves. Then, he realizes that his mate is calling his name.

"Acornfall! Acornfall! Are you okay?" Acornfall hears from Hawkstar. "You looked like you were about to go crazy. You were breathing so heavily and your eyes were so wide! I thought you were dying!" She meows worriedly.

"No, I'm okay," Acornfall replies, meeting his mate's gaze. "Hawkstar... I just got a prophecy, and I think it might have something to do with our son." He meows with concern.

Chapter 1

"Ivycloud! Ivycloud!" Adderkit cheers as he bounces around the nursery excitedly. He gently nudges the sleeping she-cat, causing her to wake up, as his littermates watch with amusement.

"What is it, Adderkit?" Ivycloud asks, purring at the sight of her foster kit.

"My apprentice ceremony is today!" Adderkit meows happily. The kit purrs loudly, filled with excitement. "I'm going to be the best warrior ever!" He claims, standing over his foster mother. Ivycloud purrs with amusement again.

"Your apprentice ceremony won't be until later. Not until Hawkstar calls for a clan meeting," Ivycloud explains to the kit.

"I know, but I'm still excited!" Adderkit meows, his orbs shining with pure excitement. "Are Ashkit and Marshkit going to become apprentices today too?" He then asks Ivycloud.

"Yes, Adderkit. You may not be littermates, but all three of you will be becoming apprentices today," Ivycloud explains. Ashkit and Marshkit are Ivycloud's own kits. Their father is a warrior named Frogleap. Ivycloud took in Adderkit as her own and raised him, believing that he was a lonely motherless kit found by Hawkstar, but little does she know how wrong she is.

"Adderkit! You know that when you're an apprentice you have to take care of the *elders* right?" Ashkit meows, seeming disgusted by the thought of picking fleas and ticks off the elders' mangy pelts.

"I know... but we'll learn how to be warriors!" Adderkit meows. "Isn't that exciting?"

"It is!" Marshkit meows. "I'm just as excited as you are!" He purrs

happily. "Ashkit is just being whiny," He meows, turning to look at his sister with narrowed eyes.

"I'm not whiny!" Ashkit meows in defense. "I just don't want to clean the elders' nests and pick off their ticks and fleas!" She meows.

"No apprentice wants to, but they have to. It's a part of helping the clan," Marshkit explains. "I'm going to be a big strong warrior and SkyClan would fear me by just the sight of me!" He cheers, arching his back to look intimidating

"I'm going to become leader someday, and you can be my deputy, Marshkit!" Adderkit exclaims excitedly.

"Yeah! That sounds great!" Marshkit meows in response, his eyes widening at the thought. Ashkit growls a little.

"What about me?!" Ashkit asks her littermates, not liking being excluded.

"You're going to be the weakest warrior in the Clan! No cat is going to like you because you're terrible at hunting and fighting and you're going to retire to the elders' den early," Marshkit teases with a mocking tone of voice. "Then the apprentices will have to pick off *your* fleas and ticks!"

"Not funny," Ashkit replies coldly, narrowing her eyes.

"Who do you want your mentors to be?" Adderkit asks, changing the subject quickly. "I hope Hawkstar herself is my mentor! It would be so cool!" He meows, admiring how much he would brag if his very own leader was his mentor.

"Be more realistic, Adderkit," Ashkit meows with a sigh. "I want my mentor to be Ebonyfrost. I heard she's an excellent hunter," She says with admiration for the warrior.

"I want my mentor to be Wolfclaw! She seems so strong! I want to learn how to be as strong and intimidating as she is!" Marshkit says. "She's *so cool!"*

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath

the high branch for a meeting!" Adderkit hears Hawkstar's voice call from outside the nursery. Ashkit tenses up.

"Today, three young kits have reached the age of six moons, and are ready to become apprentices." Hawkstar announces from the Highbranch.

"It's time," Ivycloud whispers. "Go on out, and *behave,"* She reminds the kids, giving them a gentle nudge with her tail as she gets up out of her nest. The three kits slowly walk out of the nursery and over to where the Clan is gathered. Ivycloud follows behind them, sitting down with the three kits along with the other cats.

"Ashkit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Ashpaw. Your mentor will be Mousetuft. I hope Mousetuft will pass down all she knows on to you," Hawkstar meows, shifting her gaze to the pale brown warrior. "Mousetuft, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You have received excellent training from Jaggedfoot, and you have shown yourself to be a brave and skilled warrior. You will be the mentor of Ashpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to her."

Ashpaw walks over to Mousetuft and touches noses with the warrior. The clan cheers. "Ashpaw! Ashpaw!" They meow.

"Marshkit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is also time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Marshpaw. Your mentor will be Wolfclaw. I hope Wolfclaw will pass down all she knows on to you," Hawkstar says, gazing over at the strong she-cat. "Wolfclaw, you are ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training from Juniperleaf, and you have shown yourself to be an excellent fighter and strong warrior. You will be the mentor of Marshpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to him."

Marshpaw rushes happily over to Wolfclaw, happy he got the mentor he wanted. He touches noses with her and the clan cheers. "Marshpaw! Marshpaw!"

"Finally, Adderkit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is also time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Adderpaw. Your mentor will be Swiftfang. I hope Swiftfang will pass down all he knows on to you," Hawkstar says, shifting her gaze from her son to the young black-furred warrior. "Swiftfang, you are ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training from Pineshade, and you have shown yourself to be an excellent hunter and clever warrior. You will be the mentor of Adderpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to him."

Adderpaw looks over at Swiftfang with happiness. He walks over to the warrior and they touch noises. Adderpaw purrs with delight as he hears the clan cheer his new name. "Adderpaw! Adderpaw!" They cheer.

"The clan meeting is now dismissed," Hawkstar then meows, leaping down from the highbranch.

"What are we going to do first?" Adderpaw asks his new mentor excitedly, looking up into his yellow eyes.

"First, Mousetuft, Wolfclaw, and I are going to show you three around the territory," Swiftfang replies. Adderpaw looks up at the young warrior with admiration as the warrior looks around for Mousetuft, and Wolfclaw, who happens to be his mate. Swiftfang spots the other two warriors and signals them over with his tail. The other two warriors nod and explain to their apprentice what they are going to do. Then, the six cats leave the ShadowClan camp to show the new apprentices around ShadowClan territory.

They slowly pad through the forest, the three apprentices following their mentors.

"Look! A squirrel!" Marshpaw says, looking over at a nearby tree, getting distracted.

"We aren't hunting yet, Marshpaw," Wolfclaw reminds her apprentice. "Now is not the time." Soon, the cats reach a twoleg path.

"This is a twoleg path. The other side of the path is SkyClan territory," Mousetuft explains. "Don't cross the border into another Clan's territory," She tells the apprentices. The apprentices nod, understanding the rule.

Then, the cats continue walking, but back in the other direction. After a bit of walking, they spot a twoleg nest.

"That's a twoleg nest," Swiftfang explains. "I've seen some twolegs here. Don't ever get near the twolegs or the nest. Twolegs are dangerous," He tells the apprentices. They nod, listening to the warrior.

Then, they continued walking. "Right here, there's a twolegplace. There can be lots of twolegs here, but only during greenleaf," Mousetuft tells the apprentices.

"Why only during greenleaf?" Ashpaw asks curiously.

"I don't know, but I've seen them swimming in the lake before, and they like to put monsters out on the water," Mousetuft tells her apprentice. "They probably come and swim to cool down from the heat," She meows. "In the middle of the lake, there is an island. That's where all of the gatherings take place," She then meows.

Then, the six cats continue. Then, connected to the greenleaf twolegplace, there is a small thunderpath. "This is a thunderpath. There's monsters on thunderpaths, so they're very dangerous. On the other side of the thunderpath, there's RiverClan territory." Wolfclaw explains. "Remember what we said about crossing into other clans' territory?" She asks.

"We shouldn't." Ashpaw replies almost immediately.

"That's correct." Wolfclaw replies. "Now, let's head back to camp." She then meows, beginning to walk back. All of the other cats follow.

"Our territory is so big!" Adderpaw says excitedly as they walk back. "I can't wait to start hunting!" He meows.

"I know! It's so exciting!" Marshpaw replies to Adderpaw. "I can't

wait to learn how to fight either! I want to get into my first battle soon!" He says.

"Don't wish for battles, Marshpaw." Wolfclaw then says. "Battles are dangerous and can lead to cats dying." She meows. "The clans should be as peaceful as possible, but we need to be prepared if a battle does happen." Marshpaw nods, understanding where his mentor is coming from.

Then, they arrive back in camp and are greeted and congratulated by their clanmates, including the other apprentices, Cloudpaw, Smokepaw, and Duskpaw.

Chapter 2

Today is very exciting for Adderpaw, Marshpaw, and Ashpaw. All of the apprentices and their mentors are all going to train together. Adderpaw is very excited about this.

Adderpaw, Marshpaw, Ashpaw, Smokepaw, Applepaw, and Duskpaw along with their respective mentors, Swiftfang, Wolfclaw, Mousetuft, Beetlenose, Frogleap, and Flamepelt all exit the ShadowClan camp together.

Soon, the twelve cats reach their destination. A very small clearing in the middle of the forest. It's been a quarter-moon since Adderpaw, Marshpaw, and Ashpaw have become apprentices. They've been enjoying it a lot.

"Since Beetlenose has the most experience, he will lead the instruction." Wolfclaw explains. Then, the apprentices sit down together. The senior warrior walks in front of the apprentices, looking down at them.

"First, we will focus on hunting. Hunting is a very important skill because it feeds the clan." Beetlenose explains to the apprentices. "All of the clans have been going though tough times lately, so knowing how to hunt is important to keep the clan well-fed and happy." He meows. "Watch me closely." He then meows, right when a mouse comes into his sight. He crouches low to the ground and slowly sneaks closer to the mouse, not making a single sound. Then, he pounces and bites the mouse's neck, killing it instantly. He looks over to the apprentices proudly. "That's how it's done." He says. "Some of you have lots of training, while others don't, but I'd like to see all of you try to catch something." Beetlenose says. "Go with your mentor and try to hunt. If you catch something, excellent. If not, that's okay, you can still practice." He meows. "When you're finished, meet back up here and we'll move on to some battle moves." He meows.

Adderpaw turns to look at Swiftfang. "Where should we go and hunt?" Adderpaw asks his mentor.

"I know a good spot, follow me." Swiftfang says. All of the mentors and apprentices go their separate ways as they go to practice hunting. Adderpaw follows his mentor closely.

Swiftfang then stops. "Here." He meows. "The rest is on you. Remember what I taught you before." He then says, moving farther away from his apprentice.

Adderpaw looks around to see Swiftfang watching him closely. Adderpaw is feeling a bit nervous, but he keeps going with what he has to do. Then, Adderpaw spots something. A squirrel. Adderpaw remembers what he was taught and what Beetlenose did and crouches down low. He slowly and quietly approaches the squirrel. Then, he leaps for the squirrel. But, when he lands, the squirrel is nowhere to be found. Adderpaw looks around with confusion. Then, he hears the loud chatter of a squirrel on the nearest tree. The squirrel got away.

"That was a pretty good attempt." Swiftfang says, approaching Adderpaw. "But that was not good enough." He meows. "Don't worry though, you have moons of practice ahead of you." He says. "Let's go back to the clearing." Swiftfang tells his apprentice. Then, Adderpaw feels something heavy slam against him. He falls over.

"Ow.." Adderpaw says while on the ground. He tries to get up but there is something heavy on top of them. He hears purrs of laughter coming from Swiftfang.

"Oh, my bad, Adderpaw! You're so small I thought you were a large squirrel!" Adderpaw hears a familiar voice say.

"Smokepaw, when you pounce, *please* make sure it's actually prey, not another cat." Adderpaw hears Beetlenose meow.

"But Beetlenose, Adderpaw *is* my prey now. I caught him!" Smokepaw replies, still on top of Adderpaw.

"No, get off of him." Beetlenose demands of his apprentices.

"Fine, *whatever you say*." Smokepaw replies, getting up off of Adderpaw. Adderpaw sighs with relief.

Swiftfang rushes over to Adderpaw. "Are you hurt? Do you need to go see Acornfall?" He asks his apprentice.

"No, I'm fine. I think I'll just be a little sore later on." Adderpaw replies. He then looks over at Smokepaw. "I'm not *that* tiny." He then meows in response.

"To me you are!" The dark gray she-cat meows, purring with amusement.

"Smokepaw. Apologize to Adderpaw." Beetlenose tells his apprentice.

Smokepaw sighs. "I'm sorry, Adderpaw. I'll make sure I don't confuse you with a squirrel next time." She meows.

"I forgive you." Adderpaw replies. Then, the four cats head back to the clearing together.

When they got back, Ashpaw and Mousetuft were already there. Ashpaw has no fresh kill either, so now Adderpaw knows that he and Smokepaw aren't alone.

Then, Marshpaw returns with a bird in his jaws. He walks into the clearing with his head held up high, gently dropped the dead bird on the ground. Wolfclaw is not that far behind him.

"I am Marshstar, ShadowClan's greatest leader and the most legendary hunter ever in the history of the clans. Praise me." Marshpaw says, fluffing out his chest.

"What a mousebrain." Ashpaw mumbles quietly.

Then, Applepaw, Duskpaw, Frogleap, and Flamepelt finally return. Each apprentice has fresh kill with them.

"Good effort, everyone. Half of you caught something, while the other half did not." Beetlenose meows. "Bury your fresh kill now, we will move on to battle skills. We will get our fresh kill back when

we return to camp." He instructs. Marshpaw, Applepaw, and Duskpaw all bury their fresh kill.

"For this practice, I will split the each of you into three random pairs." Beetlenose explains. "Me and the other mentors will help you out." He meows. "Each pair will practice battle moves on each other. *Please* make sure your claws are sheathed. We don't want any of you getting injured." He explains. "The pairs will be Marshpaw and Applepaw, Ashpaw and Smokepaw, and Adderpaw and Duskpaw." He tells the other cats.

Adderpaw looks over at Duskpaw and walks towards her. "Hello." Adderpaw says.

"I've seen you practice fight before. You fight like a kittypet!" The older apprentice teases.

"I bet you weren't that great starting off either!" Adderpaw replies, feeling a little offended.

"Woah.." Duskpaw meows.

"What is it?" Adderpaw asks.

"I just noticed. You have a giant tooth. It's weird, but interesting at the same time. How do you have that?" The older apprentice asks. She has her head tilted a bit.

"I was born with it, I guess." Adderpaw replies. Then, Adderpaw hears Beetlenose's voice.

"When I tell you to start, you may start. Remember, use all that you have learned on your partner." Beetlenose says. "Now.. start!" He meows.

Then, Adderpaw leaps for Duskpaw in attempt to try to pin her down, but Duskpaw dodges the brown tabby. Then, Adderpaw feels soft paw scrape against his side. If this was a real battle, he would be wounded. Adderpaw took another attempt to pin the older apprentice, but this time it worked. He successfully pinned the larger apprentice. He isn't sure how, but he managed to. Then, his soft paw moves across Duskpaw's chest and belly, pretending to

injure the she-cat.

"Great job, Adderpaw!" Swiftfang meows. Then, Duskpaw presses her hind leg against Adderpaw, getting him off her.

"You got me good." Duskpaw meows, breathing heavily. "I didn't know you had that in you. When I saw you practicing before you sucked." She meows.

"I guess my practicing has paid off." Adderpaw replies happily.

"You win." Duskpaw says, giving in.

"Nice try, Duskpaw." Flamepelt tells his apprentice.

"I'll beat you next time, just watch." Duskpaw tells Adderpaw, a bit of a cold tone in her voice. Adderpaw looks around and notices that all of the other pairs finished too. Smokepaw beat Ashpaw and Applepaw beat Marshpaw.

"Marshstar has been defeated! The clans are filled with sorrow!" Marshpaw claims. Adderpaw purrs with amusement at this. Everyone seems at least a bit amused except Ashpaw.

Then, the apprentices who caught something dug put their fresh kill and all of the cats walk back to camp together.

"That was fun!" Adderpaw meows happily as they walk.

"It was!" Smokepaw and Marshpaw say in unison.

"We should do it again sometime, just as long as it's before Applepaw becomes a warrior." Ashpaw then meows. All of the others agree.

Then, all of the cats return back to camp and fill the fresh kill pile with what was caught.

"Adderpaw." Adderpaw hears a familiar voice say. It's ShadowClan's deputy, Pineshade. "You, Ashpaw, and Marshpaw were the apprentices that were chosen for the gathering. You will go along with Hawkstar, me, your mentors, Spikepelt, and Ivycloud."

Pineshade informs him. "If you didn't know, it will be when there's a full moon, which is not much longer from now." He meows.

"Okay!" Adderpaw says excitedly. *It's my first gathering!* He thinks. *How exciting!*

Chapter 3

It is now the night of the gathering. Hawkstar, Pineshade, Spikepelt, Ivycloud, Swiftfang, Wolfclaw, Acornfall, Mousetuft, Cloudpaw, Ashpaw, Marshpaw, and Adderpaw walk to the gathering together. The full moon is high in the sky, shining down on the lake. They approach the log bridge that leads to the island.

"Be careful when you walk on the log. Don't fall off." Hawkstar advises the apprentices as the walk closer to it. They nod.

"I'm so excited!" Marshpaw says happily. "Our first gathering!" He meows.

"Yeah!" Adderpaw replies excitedly.

"The great leader and legendary hunter Marshstar is going his first gathering. Kind of odd for it to be his first since he's the leader of ShadowClan." Marshpaw meows, using a deeper voice. He walks proudly.

"Can you shut up about that? It's getting old." Ashpaw complains.

"Marshstar never gets old! He is immortal!" Marshpaw exclaims, purring happily. Adderpaw purrs with amusement. Ashpaw just sighs.

"Cloudpaw? This is your fourth or fifth gathering, right?" Ashpaw asks the other apprentice. Cloudpaw nods in response.

"The medicine cat and their apprentice has to go to every gathering, so I've been every time ever since I first became Acornfall's apprentice." Cloudpaw explains.

"Lucky." Marshpaw meows. "I wish I could go to every gathering." He says. They then approach the log bridge.

"Apprentices, each of you should walk in between two warriors. Then, if you slip, one of us can catch you before you fall in the

lake." Hawkstar tells them. Then, they each walk on the log in between two warriors. Adderpaw walks in between Hawkstar and Swiftfang. Then, they reach the island. They see that all of the other clans were already there.

"I guess we were the last ones." Ivycloud meows. ShadowClan gathers together with the other clans as Hawkstar joins the other clan leaders on the giant tree and Pineshade joins the other deputies near the tree. Adderpaw then notices something unusual.

"Does ThunderClan usually not talk to other clans? And do they usually look like that?" Adderpaw asks Swiftfang, seeing that ThunderClan was only talking amongst themselves and looked unusually skinny and weak.

"No.." Swiftfang replies. "That's really concerning. I hope they're doing okay." He meows.

"It is time for the gathering to begin." Adderpaw hears Honeystar's voice announce. The clans then go silent as the leaders begin to take turns sharing news.

"Buzzardstar, it seems like something's up. Care to speak first?" Honeystar asks, looking over to the ThunderClan leader. The tom has jet black fur but icy blue eyes that makes Adderpaw shiver in fear a little.

"Yeah, I care to speak first!" Buzzardstar snaps. The old tom seems very upset. "ThunderClan needs more territory!" He claims. "All of the prey has left our territory and they seem to have moved over to SkyClan's territory!" He meows.

"We've been lacking prey too, Buzzardstar." Honeystar then says, much calmer than ThunderClan's leader.

"Then ShadowClan must have all of the prey!" Buzzardstar says angrily, looking at Hawkstar coldly.

"W-Well... we have had a lot of fresh kill lately.." Hawkstar says nervously. Adderpaw watches this in terror.

"Then, SkyClan and ThunderClan deserve some of ShadowClan's

territory! We've been starving!" Buzzardstar demands.

"No. I'm not giving up any of our territory." Hawkstar replies. "The prey will move back over eventually." She meows.

"We will fight for it then!" Buzzardstar meows. "ThunderClan, attack ShadowClan!" He yowls. The leader leaps for Hawkstar.

"But the truce—" Mothstar begins to say, but it's too late. ThunderClan began to attack ShadowClan. A large cloud covers the moon, showing StarClan's disapproval.

"WindClan, let's go back to camp!" Mothstar yowls. Then, WindClan leaves the island.

"SkyClan, help ThunderClan!" Honeystar demands of her clan. Adderpaw sits there, in complete shock, as he watches ThunderClan and SkyClan begin to attack his clanmates.

"RiverClan, ShadowClan needs help! We need to stop ThunderClan and SkyClan!" Otterstar says. Then, a full on battle breaks out.

Adderpaw was not expecting this at all. He begins to put his abilities to the test and fight the starved warriors. He spots a ginger tom that smells of ThunderClan and leaps for the warrior. It might not have been his best decision, but he has to put his skills to the test and help out his clan. He lands onto the warrior's back and sinks his claws into it. The tom yowls from the pain and Adderpaw leaps off the tom. The tom then runs away from the apprentice. *The tom must've known how weak and vulnerable he is. He probably was thinking even an apprentice could defeat him.* Adderpaw thinks.

Then, Adderpaw suddenly feels something slam against him just a few seconds after the ThunderClan warrior retreated. Adderpaw falls over. He looks up to see a spotted cat that smells of SkyClan. *She must be another apprentice.* He thinks, looking at the cat's size. She then scratches Adderpaw's chest. Adderpaw yowls in pain, then he uses his hind leg to throw the other apprentice off him once he realized the small apprentice was *actually* about to bite his neck, which Adderpaw thinks might be a way to kill another cat. He then quickly lunges at the other apprentice to attempted to kill him,

pinning her against the ground.

I wonder if what she was trying to do would actually kill me. Adderpaw thinks. Then, without thinking first, he bites the small apprentice on the neck. Adderpaw notices that the apprentice's body has gone limp. He quickly lets go after he realized what he has done. *Oh no, I actually killed her!* He thinks, panicking. Adderpaw doesn't know what to do. He looks around panicky. He notices that many ThunderClan and SkyClan cats are retreating. *Well, on the bright side, we're winning.* Adderpaw thinks.

Then, Adderpaw went completely out of it. He is deep into his thoughts. *I'm a murderer!* He thinks. *Oh no, no, no, I shouldn't have done that. I'm such a mousebrain!* He thinks. He's been sitting there staring at the apprentice's lifeless body for so long, that he hasn't noticed that the battle ended and ShadowClan and RiverClan had won.

"Adderpaw!" He heard Ashpaw call out. Then, he is snapped back into reality. He looks over at his littermate, his eyes wide.

Ashpaw looks frightened too. Her eyes are also wide and she has a very pained expression on her face. She looks like she's about to break down.

"I-I killed her..!" Adderpaw yowls sadly, looking over at the dead SkyClan apprentice.

"A-Adderpaw.. there's worse things to focus on right now." Ashpaw scolds. The gray she-cat then breaks down. She lets out a very sad meow. Adderpaw looks around to see what she means, and then he saw it. Ivycloud and Marshpaw. Their bodies are laying on the ground, completely lifeless. Adderpaw quickly rushes over. He gently nudges Marshpaw with his muzzle, but there is no response. Adderpaw notices a large wound on his littermate's neck. Adderpaw then yowls sadly. He rushes over to Ivycloud's body as well. The cat who loved him and raised him as his own, is gone. Adderpaw collapses on the ground. His chest wound is bleeding. Then, Adderpaw faints.

Adderpaw wakes up in the medicine cat den. He notices that

Acornfall is currently putting cobweb on his bleeding chest wound.

"Please tell me that was just a bad dream..." Adderpaw meows weakly. Acornfall stops for a moment and looks down at Adderpaw with pity.

"I'm so sorry, Adderpaw.. but it really happened." Acornfall meows in a sad tone. "The clan will sit vigil for Spikepelt, Ivycloud, and Marshpaw tonight." He tells the apprentice.

Adderpaw is completely overwhelmed with all of his negative thoughts. His clanmate, adoptive mother, and littermate have joined StarClan. Along with that, he had killed a SkyClan apprentice.

"Do you know all of the cats that died in the battle? Like, from the other clans?" Adderpaw asks Acornfall, wanting to possible figure out the name of the apprentice he had killed.

"From ThunderClan, Buzzardstar lost his final life and Molefur and Smallpoppy died. From SkyClan, their deputy Leopardspot, along with Whitecloud and Spottedpaw died. From RiverClan, Needleclaw and Willowheart died." Acornfall answers.

Spottedpaw, I'm so sorry. Adderpaw thinks.

"Adderpaw, my best advice to you is to move on. My littermates all died when I was just a kit. It's part of the reason I decided to become a medicine cat, so I can prevent things like that from happening to other cats." Acornfall explains. "Move on and become the best warrior you can be, it's what Ivycloud and Marshpaw would want." He meows. Adderpaw nods in agreement.

"When do you think my wound will be better?" Adderpaw asks.

"I don't think it would take long. It's bleeding a lot, but it actually seems like a minor wound." Acornfall explains. "You'll still be able to sit vigil tonight." He meows.

"Good." Adderpaw replies. He then hears a familiar voice.

"Is he awake?" He hears the voice call from outside the den.

"Yes, come on in." Acornfall says. Adderpaw looks over and sees Ashpaw.

"I'm so glad you're okay.." Ashpaw says, gently nudging Adderpaw's shoulder.

That night, Adderpaw, Ashpaw, and some of their other clanmates sat vigil for Spikepelt, Ivycloud, and Marshpaw. All of the cats were silent most of the time.

"I wish I appreciated him more.." Ashpaw meows, looking at Marshpaw's lifeless body sadly. "I would scold him a lot and would get annoyed by him, but now that he's gone, I appreciate him much more. I just wish I had the chance to say goodbye.." She meows. "Ivycloud too.. I really wish I could've said goodbye to her.."

"Yeah.. I feel the same way." Adderpaw says sadly.

Then, once the entire vigil was over, the elders carried the bodies away and buried them.

Nothing will be the same again. Adderpaw thinks.

Chapter 4

It has been a half-moon since the battle at the gathering and Adderpaw's wound is now fully healed. Today, there will be another group training. Adderpaw is excited about this, but he is sad that it won't be the same without Marshpaw. He misses him a lot. Ivycloud too.

Adderpaw exits the apprentice den and spots Swiftfang. He dashes towards his mentor.

"Are you ready, Adderpaw?" Swiftfang asks him.

"Yes!" Adderpaw says happily. Soon, once all of the mentors and apprentices were there, Adderpaw, Ashpaw, Smokepaw, Applepaw, and Duskpaw along with their respective mentors, Swiftfang, Mousetuft, Beetlenose, Frogleap, and Flamepelt all exit the ShadowClan camp together, heading towards the small clearing.

"Duskpaw talks about your tooth a lot." Smokepaw says to Adderpaw. "She thinks it's weird. I think it's cute." She meows, mentioning her littermate.

"That's.. cool." Adderpaw replies as they continued to walk.

"I'll make sure I don't pounce on you this time, okay?" Smokepaw then says to Adderpaw.

"Okay, thanks." Adderpaw replies. He turns his head to see a cold glare from Duskpaw. He quickly looks away.

Soon, the apprentices and their mentors reached the clearing.

"We're going to do basically the same thing as last time." Beetlenose tells the apprentices. "First, you will go with your mentor to try to hunt. Then, you will come back here for some battle training." He meows. Adderpaw nods, understanding. "Now, let's start." Beetlenose meows.

Adderpaw walks off with Swiftfang following him. Then, he hears something moving in a nearby bush. Adderpaw crouches low and moves closer to the bush, being careful and quiet. He then realizes that there's a squirrel under the bush. He leaps for the bush and successfully pounces on the squirrel. Then, he bites the squirrel's neck. He feels the squirrel's body go limp. Adderpaw looks over at Swiftfang proudly.

"Great job, Adderpaw." Swiftfang meows. "Let's head back." He meows. The two of them then walk back to the clearing together. Adderpaw is carrying the dead squirrel in his jaws proudly.

When they get back to the clearing, Duskpaw and Flamepelt were already there. Duskpaw also had a squirrel, but it is bigger than Adderpaw's. Duskpaw takes this opportunity to pick at the younger tom.

"Ha. *My* squirrel is bigger than *yours*." Duskpaw meows proudly. Recently, it's been like ruining Adderpaw's confidence is Duskpaw's job. Ever since the last time they all trained here, a rivalry has been brewing between the two of them. They always try to be better than the other.

"Well, it's no surprise because you're older than me and have more training." Adderpaw replies after he gently drops his squirrel.

Then, Adderpaw turns around to see Ashpaw and Mousetuft returning. Ashpaw has a mouse on her jaws.

"Good job!" Adderpaw tells Ashpaw.

"You too." Ashpaw replies in a muffled voice since she has a mouse in her jaws. Once she gets back into the clearing, she drops the mouse.

"Woah.." Adderpaw hears Ashpaw say. He looks over at Ashpaw and sees that her eyes are wide. Applepaw and Frogleap have returned, but Applepaw has a giant snake in his jaws. It's body is trailing on the ground.

"Wow! Applepaw!" Duskpaw meows. "How did you catch that?!"

She meows.

"I saw it on the side of a tree, so I snuck up on it and bit its neck." Applepaw explains once he puts the large snake down.

"That's so cool!" Adderpaw meows.

"Yeah! I want to catch a snake too!" Ashpaw meows with an amazed tone in her voice.

"Thank you for the praise." Applepaw replies, standing proudly. Then, Smokepaw and Beetlenose finally return. Smokepaw has no fresh kill with her.

"Aw, Smokepaw. I believed you could do it this time!" Duskpaw meows.

"It's okay. Hunting isn't my thing. I'll get it soon." Smokepaw replies to her sister.

Then, all of the apprentices that caught something buried their fresh kill.

"Now, to battle practice." Beetlenose meows. "Since we don't have an even number of apprentices anymore, we can't split into pairs as apprentices. So, instead, each of you will be paired with your mentor." He explains. "Mentors, let your apprentices make the first move." He meows. "Apprentices, use all you know on your mentor. Remember, make sure your claws are sheathed. We don't want any injuries." He continues to explain. "Got it?" He asks. All of the other cats then nod. "When I say you can start, you may start. Now... start!" He meows.

Adderpaw then leaps for Swiftfang. He lands on his mentor's back, pretending to sink his claws into his back. Swiftfang gently throws Adderpaw off and Adderpaw lands on the ground. He charges for Swiftfang again, but this time he swipes his soft paw against the warrior's side.

"That was a good one, Adderpaw. You win." Swiftfang meows.

"You didn't even fight back." Adderpaw replies.

"I decided to go easy on your this time. You will have more of a challenge next time." Swiftfang tells his apprentice. Soon, everyone else was finished. It seems like every mentor was easy on their apprentice because every apprentice won against their mentor.

"Great job. Now, let's head back to camp." Beetlenose meows to the others. Then, Adderpaw and the other apprentices that caught something digs their fresh kill out. The apprentices and mentors then walk back to camp together. Adderpaw is walking beside Ashpaw.

"It wasn't the same without Marshpaw..." Ashpaw meows quietly and sadly.

"I agree... stupid ThunderClan. They broke the truce." Adderpaw meows. "If that didn't happen, more cats would be alive right now, including Ivycloud and Marshpaw. Marshpaw probably would've caught a snake even bigger than Applepaw's and would've claimed to Marshstar again.." He meows sadly, thinking about his beloved littermate.

"You two are such bums. Lighten up a little. Marshpaw is probably proud of you two for catching something today, and same with Ivycloud. They're happy together in StarClan." Smokepaw then meows, hearing the conversation.

"Smokepaw is right." Applepaw meows. "It's no good if you keep on being sad." He says. "Just move on and try to make them proud of you two." He says.

"They're right." Duskpaw then meows. Adderpaw then notices that all of the mentors are nodding with agreement. *Yeah, they are right. But, I can't help but think about them a lot. I can't help but feel guilty for killing Spottedpaw either.* He thinks. Then, they soon arrive back in ShadowClan's camp.

Adderpaw brings his squirrel over to the fresh kill pile. He places is there along with Duskpaw's squirrel, Ashpaw's mouse, and Applepaw's large snake. Adderpaw then hears Applepaw's voice.

"Do you want to share the snake with me?" Applepaw asks the other

apprentices. "It's big enough for everyone to have a good share. No cat or even two cats can eat this by themselves." He meows. All of the apprentices agree. Applepaw drags the dead snake out of the fresh kill pile and to a spot in camp. Then, all of the apprentices gather together around the snake. They thank StarClan and then crouch down and begin eating together.

Soon, all six apprentices, including Cloudpaw, the medicine cat apprentice and Applepaw's littermate, finish the snake together.

"The snake was so tasty. Thank you for catching it, Applepaw." Ashpaw meows to the other apprentice.

"Yeah, you're really good!" Adderpaw then meows.

"When will you become a warrior?" Duskpaw then asks the older apprentice.

"I don't think it will be much longer. Frogleap has been very impressed by me lately, so my assessment might be pretty soon." Applepaw replies.

"You seem ready." Smokepaw then meows.

"Yeah, you're really good. I think I might become a full medicine cat soon too." Cloudpaw tells her littermate.

"That's great, Cloudpaw! I saw you help treat wounds after the gathering battle. You really learned a lot." Applepaw replies.

"Did you hear the news?" Cloudpaw asks the other apprentices.

"Hear what news?" Duskpaw then asks.

"Wolfclaw is expecting Swiftfang's kits. She's moving into the nursery today." Cloudpaw informs the other apprentices. Adderpaw is shocked, but happy for his mentor.

"Wow! More kits!" Smokepaw then meows.

Cloudpaw is the medicine cat apprentice and she's the kit of Wolfclaw's littermate, Icewhisker, so it's no surprise she heard about it before all of

us. Adderpaw thinks.

Then, the apprentices finish chatting and go their separate ways.

Another A/N

Now, I have all of the major plot points in the outline assigned to chapters. So, it is now confirmed that there will be 32 chapters and an epilogue for this book.

Chapter 5

The previous night, at the medicine cat gathering at the moonpool, Cloudpaw was made a full medicine cat and received her medicine cat name, Cloudheart. Today, Frogleap went to Hawkstar and told her that he believes Applepaw is ready for his warrior assessment. Hawkstar agreed to this, and now it is time for the assessment.

Adderpaw sits in ShadowClan's camp with the other apprentices.

"Do you think he'll pass it?" Smokepaw asks the other apprentices.

"I think he will. Remember, he caught a large snake before!" Ashpaw replies.

"I think so too. He's really good." Adderpaw meows. The apprentices wait patiently in the camp for Applepaw to finish his assessment, hoping he will pass it.

"I'm so nervous for him." Ashpaw then meows. "He really deserves to pass it. I hope he doesn't mess up." She says.

"Yeah, me too." Adderpaw replies.

"I can't wait for the time me and Smokepaw take ours." Duskpaw meows. "We'll definitely pass ours on the first try, right Smokepaw?" She asks her littermate.

"Mhm!" Smokepaw replies.

"I'm better than you though." Duskpaw then full our states.

"Hey! Just because I'm not good at hunting now doesn't mean I won't be then!" Smokepaw replies, giving her littermate a playful shove. Duskpaw purrs with amusement.

"Even *Adderpaw* is better than you!" Duskpaw teases.

"Adderpaw just has more skill in it." Smokepaw replies.

Adderpaw never really liked Duskpaw. He always had a bad feeling about her ever since they were both still kits in the nursery. The she-cat loves to pick on him for no reason at all. He believes Smokepaw is a lot more friendlier and better to be around than Duskpaw. Duskpaw likes to make whatever it is between him and her a competition, and he does not like that.

Then, Applepaw arrives back in camp. Hawkstar and Frogleap aren't far behind. All of the apprentices get all excited.

"How did you do?" Ashpaw asks Applepaw excitedly.

"I guess we're about to find out." Applepaw replies.

Adderpaw watches as Hawkstar gets up onto the high branch.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Hawkstar then calls out. The clan then gathers beneath the high branch.

"Today, young Applepaw has passed his warrior assessment." Hawkstar announces. "He will now become a warrior of ShadowClan." She meows. "Applepaw, please come forward." She says. Then, Applepaw does what he is told.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn." Hawkstar meows. She then looks down at Applepaw.

"Applepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Applepaw then responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Applepaw, from this moment on you will be known as Applebranch. StarClan honors your loyalty and dedication, and we welcome you

as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

Hawkstar leaps off of the high branch and rests her muzzle on Applebranch's head and Applebranch licks his leader's shoulder.

The clan begins to cheer out the ginger tom's warrior name. "Applebranch! Applebranch! Applebranch!" They cheer. Applebranch has to sit silent vigil guarding the camp tonight.

The apprentices rush over to the newly named warrior and they congratulate him.

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Hawkstar announces.

"I will organize a border patrol." Pineshade then meows. He looks around at the cats gathering in the camp.

"Swiftfang. Can you lead the border patrol?" Pineshade asks. The black tom then nods in response.

"Beetlenose and Flamepelt, come along with me. We need to bring our apprentices as well." Swiftfang meows. Adderpaw walks over to his mentor and it isn't much longer until Beetlenose, Flamepelt, Smokepaw, and Duskpaw joined them as well.

"Let's go." Swiftfang tells the other cats in the border patrol. Then, the cats walk out of camp and towards the clan borders together.

"I knew Applebranch could do it!" Smokepaw meows happily.

"So did I." Adderpaw replies, walking beside his fellow apprentice.

"I hope I get my assessment soon. I think I'm good enough to become a warrior. Adderpaw definitely isn't good enough yet." Duskpaw then meows. "Ow!" Duskpaw then says once Smokepaw gives her a hard shove.

"That was mean!" Smokepaw meows, scolding her littermate. "Tell Adderpaw you're sorry! He did nothing bad to you!" She says coldly. "You're always fox-hearted to him."

"I'm sorry, Adderpaw.." Duskpaw meows, But Adderpaw could tell

by her tone of voice that she didn't really mean it.

"Cut it out." Beetlenose meows to the apprentices.

"Sorry.." Duskpaw replies to Beetlenose.

They continue to walk together until the reach the border between RiverClan and ShadowClan. They all check the border and mark it. Everything seems fine. Then, they begin walking again, this time they are heading towards their border with SkyClan. Duskpaw teases again, but her target is Smokepaw this time.

"Are you two going to be mates when you're warriors or what?" Duskpaw asks, looking at Smokepaw and Adderpaw.

"Eww.. no!" Smokepaw quickly replies. "Just because I think he's cute doesn't mean I want to be his mate when we're warriors!" She meows. Duskpaw purrs with amusement, glad she got the reaction out of Smokepaw she wanted. Adderpaw just ignores his rival. Swiftfang moves closer to Adderpaw.

"That's good, just try to keep on ignoring her. Maybe she'll eventually stop if she doesn't get a reaction from you." Swiftfang whispers to his apprentices. Adderpaw nods.

Soon, they reach the border with SkyClan.

"Oh no, I can smell some SkyClan scent on our side of the border." Flamepelt meows.

"I smell it too." Beetlenose replies. Swiftfang nods, taking in the scent. Adderpaw recognizes the scent. It reminds him of the gathering battle, when he killed a SkyClan apprentice. He is struck with guilt yet again. He looks down. He must've been showing it, because someone mentions it.

"Adderpaw, are you alright?" Smokepaw asks him.

"Yeah, I'm fine." Adderpaw replies to the other apprentice.

"You sure?" Smokepaw then meows.

"Yes." Adderpaw replies.

"Don't let her get to you, okay? She's just really fox-hearted sometimes. To me and you at least." Smokepaw meows, assuming that Adderpaw seemed upset about all the things Duskpaw has said to him. Adderpaw nods, then looks back up.

"We have to report this to Hawkstar." Swiftfang meows. The patrol finishes remarking the borders and then begins to walk back to camp to report to Hawkstar.

"Hey, Adderpaw." Duskpaw meows.

"What is it?" Adderpaw replies.

"Me and you. Hunting tomorrow at sunhigh. Whoever catches the biggest fresh kill wins." Duskpaw challenges.

"I accept your challenge." Adderpaw then replies.

"Can I watch?" Smokepaw asks excitedly.

"Sure." Adderpaw replies.

"Yay!" Smokepaw meows with a bounce.

Then, the patrol returns to camp and Swiftfang goes to report to Hawkstar.

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It is now sunhigh the next day. Adderpaw and Duskpaw both caught a bird, but Adderpaw's bird is bigger than Duskpaw's.

"I win!" Adderpaw cheers. Duskpaw doesn't say a word. She is very upset over the fact that she lost the challenge.

"Congratulations!" Smokepaw tells Adderpaw. "Nice try, Duskpaw! You'll beat him next time!" She then meows to her littermate.

The three apprentices then walk back to camp together, Smokepaw happily taking the lead.

"Watch your back, Adderpaw." Duskpaw whispers to Adderpaw. "I'll beat you in everything from now on, I promise you." She whispers.

Chapter 6

Adderpaw is laying in the sun with Ashpaw, chatting with her.

"I still miss Marshpaw and Ivycloud... and I can't stop thinking about the SkyClan apprentice I killed." Adderpaw admits sadly.

"I miss them too.. but it's already happened. There's nothing we can do to change it." Ashpaw replies. She surprisingly has been better with moving on from Marshpaw and Ivycloud's deaths than Adderpaw.

"Yeah, you're right. They wouldn't want us to constantly be sad about them." Adderpaw replies to his littermate. Then, Adderpaw noticed that there is another cat looking down at him. He looks up to see Acornfall.

"Adderpaw, can I speak to you? In private?" Acornfall asks the apprentice.

"Uh.. sure." Adderpaw replies, standing up. The brown tabby stretches his front and hind legs. Then, he walks along with Acornfall. Acornfall takes him outside of camp and towards the most wooded spot in ShadowClan's territory. Not long after, they arrive.

"So.. what is it that you want to talk to me about?" Adderpaw asks the medicine cat.

"The night before your apprentice ceremony, I receive a prophecy, and I think it's about you." Acornfall tells Adderpaw. Adderpaw is shocked. *A prophecy? About me?* He thinks. *Really? I can't believe it.. but I want to know more about it.*

"What did it say?" Adderpaw asks Acornfall.

"It said '*Many animals such as foxes and badgers can be aggressive, but an adder will only bite when it has to. The inner turmoil of an adder is whether to bite or not, and sometimes it will make the wrong decisions*.'" Acornfall replies, quoting the prophecy exactly.

Wow, it really does sound like it's about me. It's talking about an adder, and my name is ADDERpaw. Adderpaw thinks.

"Wow, I wish you could've told me sooner." Adderpaw thinks out loud. "Maybe, like, before the gathering battle? If I knew, I might've not killed Spottedpaw." He meows.

"I was afraid to tell you too soon. I wanted to think about it more and I didn't want to scare you when you just became an apprentice." Acornfall explains, flicking his tail.

"I understand, but it would've been nice to have known earlier." Adderpaw replies.

"Please keep it in mind from now on. I'm very sure it's about you." Acornfall says. "Now we can head back to camp." He meows. Adderpaw nods.

"Thank you for telling me." Adderpaw meows.

"You're welcome." Acornfall replies.

Then, the apprentice and medicine cat walk back to camp together.

I wonder what it means. Adderpaw thinks. *I think it means that I must think before I do something.* He continues to think. *Is it really about me though? It did say an adder, but would StarClan be that obvious?* He thinks.

Once he gets back to camp, Adderpaw dashes back over to Ashpaw.

"What did he talk to you about?" Ashpaw asks.

"He was giving me advice on how to deal with Duskpaw's attitude. No big deal. I guess he just didn't want to take the risk of Duskpaw hearing the conversation." Adderpaw lies, looking over his shoulder to see the older apprentice sharing tongues with Smokepaw.

"Oh, that makes sense." Ashpaw replies. He lays back down in the sun with his littermate.

What about the visuals though? Where there visuals? Did Acornfall see anything? There has to be more. Adderpaw thinks. *I'll ask him when it's dark out.* He decides.

•

It is now nighttime and most of the clan is asleep. Adderpaw exits the apprentice den and towards the medicine cat den. Once he gets there, he peeks inside. He sees Cloudheart sleeping but Acornfall is nowhere to be found. *I wonder where he is.* Adderpaw thinks. He looks around the camp and there is no sign of the medicine cat.

I guess he's outside of the camp. Adderpaw thinks, exiting ShadowClan's camp. He catches Acornfall's scent and follows it. *It seems like he left camp not long ago at all.* He thinks. *He's probably out trying to search for herbs or something.*

Then, Adderpaw hears Acornfall's voice speaking. He is too far away to hear exactly what the medicine cat is saying, so he moves closer to the source of his voice. Then, he hears Hawkstar's very familiar voice. He runs over through the very wooded area and then spots the two cats. It is something he wasn't expecting though. He was expecting them to be talking about clan business, but instead he sees them touching noses and talking sweetly to each other.

What?! What's going on?! Adderpaw thinks. He moves a bit closer to find out more, but then he steps on a twig. Hawkstar and Acornfall turn their heads towards the noise and they spot Adderpaw.

"Adderpaw. Please don't freak out." Hawkstar meows. "Why are you even out here in the first place?" She asks.

"I-I wanted to talk to Acornfall.." Adderpaw meows nervously. He is in complete shock. He can't believe that the clan's leader and medicine cat are mates and no one even knew.

Hawkstar looks over at Acornfall. "Should we tell him?" She asks him. Acornfall nods.

"It's too late to continue keeping the secrets now." Acornfall replies.

"Adderpaw. We're sorry we've been keeping these secrets away from you." Hawkstar tells him. "We're mates. We had to keep this secret from the clan for our own good. Terrible things could happen if the rest of the clan finds out." She meows.

Adderpaw then gets some suspicions. *Am I their kit? I do look an awful lot like them. Should I ask?* He thinks. Then, he decides.

"This is a weird question but... am I your kit?" Adderpaw asks curiously.

Hawkstar sighs. "Yes, but *please* don't tell any cat." She meows.

Adderpaw is stuck with complete shock yet again. *Hawkstar and Acornfall... I'm their kit! All this time I thought I was motherless!* He thinks. He is about to panic, and Hawkstar and Acornfall notice this.

"No, no. Please don't freak out." Hawkstar meows, rushing over to her kit. Acornfall does the same.

"Deep breaths." Acornfall advises. Adderpaw then takes a few deep breaths. Then, he is calm.

"Now, listen to me." Hawkstar meows. "If you tell *anyone* about this, you, Acornfall, and I will be in *huge* trouble. So, don't tell any cat, no matter who it is. Got it?" She tells him.

Adderpaw nods quickly. "I swear I won't tell a single cat." He replies.

"Good." Hawkstar replies. Adderpaw still can't believe everything that's happening. He needs time to take it all in.

"Now, what do you want to talk to me about?" Acornfall asks Adderpaw, changing the subject.

"I-I wanted to ask more about the prophecy." Adderpaw replies, looking down at the ground. He is still extremely shocked.

"Ask away." Acornfall meows, looking at his kit.

"Were there any visuals in the prophecy? Like... did you see anything?" Adderpaw asks the medicine cat.

"Yes. I was stuck in endless water, struggling to stay afloat. The StarClan cat that told me the prophecy was Boulderstar. He was the clan's leader before Hawkstar." Acornfall answers.

"T-Thank you." Adderpaw replies nervously.

"You're welcome. Now, head back to camp and get some rest." Acornfall tells the apprentice.

"Okay." Adderpaw replies and walks back to camp.

Water? Why water? Does the vision mean actual water or is water being used as a symbol? Adderpaw thinks as he walks. Then, the young apprentice walks back into the apprentice den and curls up in his nest. He is unable to fall asleep at first because of his thoughts, but then he eventually does.

Some Character References

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*Here are some **very simple** character references! I was going to draw them myself but my art isn't good enough and I'm lazy. The artist who created the lineart is in the photos. It's like, the only lineart that works with my app.*

Adderpaw:

Marshpaw:

Ashpaw:

Duskpaw:

Smokepaw:

Applebranch:

Cloudheart:

Acornfall:

Hawkstar:

Chapter 7

"Adderpaw! Ashpaw!" Adderpaw hears two very familiar voices call. He turns around and spots Duskpaw and Smokepaw dashing towards the two of them.

"Flamepelt and Beetlenose talked to Hawkstar! We're going to have our warrior assessments soon!" Smokepaw meows excitedly.

"That's fantastic!" Adderpaw meows. "Good luck, Smokepaw." He says, not bothering to tell Duskpaw good luck due to their rivalry.

"Good luck to the both of you! I know you'll both do great." Ashpaw tells the older two apprentices. "It won't much longer until we have our warrior assessments too, right Adderpaw?" She asks her littermate.

"Right!" Adderpaw meows excitedly.

"You two may take your assessments soon, but I'm not confident that Adderpaw will pass it." Duskpaw meows.

"When I take it, I'll pass!" Adderpaw replies. "The real question is, will you pass yours?" He meows.

"Of course I will." Duskpaw meows. "I'm better than a lot of the warriors already." She says, standing proudly and puffing up her chest fur.

It is now time for the assessment. Smokepaw, Duskpaw, their mentors, and Hawkstar then leave camp. Adderpaw sits and waits impatiently, secretly hoping Duskpaw doesn't pass the assessment.

"How will you feel if Duskpaw passes?" Ashpaw asks Adderpaw. She knows about their strong rivalry and dislike for each other, so she asked.

"I'll be upset, but not surprised. We are rivals, but she's pretty good." Adderpaw admits.

"Will you two still be like this when you're both warriors?" Ashpaw then asks.

"Most likely. Honestly, it all really depends on Duskpaw's behavior." Adderpaw replies. "I say most likely because I don't think she's changing anytime soon." He meows. Ashpaw nods.

"I have no problem with her. She's pretty nice to me. I consider her a friend." Ashpaw meows. "I don't really like Smokepaw, though." She meows. "She doesn't seem very strong, and she's a mouse-brain." Ashpaw admits. "She seems like the type who would just stay in the nursery as a queen all the time instead of doing warrior duties."

"She may not be that good, but she has determination. Determination is what makes you do great things. I just hope she gets lucky during this assessment. Beetlenose says she's ready though, so maybe she has improved." Adderpaw replies. "She's really nice though." He meows.

"I agree with the fact that she's nice. She has a really good heart." Ashpaw replies. "I think her and Marshpaw would've been great friends if they had more time to get to know each other." She admits. "I can just see Smokepaw always being amused by Marshpaw's jokes and always playing along with them.." She meows. Adderpaw purrs from amusement.

"I can see that too." Adderpaw replies. The two apprentices continue to wait patiently. Then, they finally return. Ashpaw and Adderpaw are very happy to see them. Their mentors and Hawkstar are following behind them. Adderpaw then watches as Hawkstar leaps onto the high branch.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Hawkstar calls out. The clan then gathers beneath the high branch.

"Today, young Duskpaw and Smokepaw have passed their warrior assessments." Hawkstar announces. Adderpaw feels happy for

Smokepaw, but slightly upset about Duskpaw. "They will now become warriors of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows. "Duskpaw, please come forward." She says. Then, Duskpaw does what she is told, stepping forward.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend her to you as a warrior in her turn." Hawkstar meows. She then looks down at Duskpaw.

"Duskpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Duskpaw then responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Duskpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Duskstorm. StarClan honors your strength and honesty, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

The clan begins to cheer Duskpaw's new name. "Duskstorm! Duskstorm!" They cheer.

"Thank you, Hawkstar." Duskstorm meows and steps back to where she was before.

"Now, Smokepaw, please come forward." Hawkstar meows. Smokepaw does what she is told.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend her to you as a warrior in her turn." Hawkstar meows. She then looks down at Smokepaw.

"Smokepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do!" Smokepaw then responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Smokepaw, from this moment on you will be known as Smokefur. StarClan honors your energy and kindness, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

The clan then cheers Smokepaw's new name. "Smokefur! Smokefur!" They cheer.

Hawkstar leaps off of the high branch and rests her muzzle on both Duskstorm's and Smokefur's heads and the two new warriors each lick their leader's shoulder.

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Hawkstar announces.

Adderpaw rushes over to Smokefur. "Congratulations!" He meows.

"Thank you!" Smokefur meows. Then, Adderpaw hears strange sounds coming from the nursery. Adderpaw looks over at it worriedly. He realizes he wasn't the only one who heard it when he spots Cloudheart rushing over to the nursery.

Cloudheart then stepped out of the nursery and reassured the clan. "Everything is okay. Wolfclaw is just having her kits!" She meows.

Wow! Wolfclaw is having her kits! Adderpaw thinks excitedly. *I can't wait to meet the kits!* He thinks. He watches as he notices a black blur rush into the nursery. *And there's Swiftfang.* He thinks.

"Such great timing!" Smokefur meows. "Wolfclaw is having her kits right after mine and Duskstorm's warrior ceremony!" She says.

"Yeah." Adderpaw meows. *I wonder if I will have kits someday.* He thinks. *I'm would be better than Acornfall was, that's for sure.* As if Smokefur was reading his mind, she speaks up.

"I wonder if I will have kits someday." Smokefur says. "It seems nice, but also very painful and tiring." She meows.

"I wonder the same." Adderpaw replies.

"If you two end up having kits together someday, I called it." Duskstorm then meows, teasing the two of them. "Frogbrain number

one and frogbrain number two. The perfect mates." That's when Adderpaw realized that Duskstorm has not changed at all after becoming a warrior.

"Stop it! I hate it when you tease me!" Smokefur whines, giving her littermate a shove. Adderpaw hears Ashpaw purr with amusement.

"Congrats, you two." Adderpaw hears. He spots Applebranch standing by the two newly appointed warriors.

"Thank you, Applebranch." Duskstorm replies with a respectful nod.

"Yes, thank you!" Smokefur replies, bouncing happily. Applebranch purrs with amusement.

"You're welcome." He replies.

"When we're all warriors, we should gather in the clearing every moon and hunt and practice battling together." Duskstorm then suggests. "Then, no mentors will have to tag along." She meows.

"That's a great idea!" Ashpaw replies. Everyone agrees on it. Then, Adderpaw notices that Swiftfang just came out of the nursery.

"Wolfclaw had her kits. There's three of them." Swiftfang meows. He seems pretty panicked. "Anyone can come and see them if they want." He says. All five of them then hurries towards the nursery together. They peek into the nursery and spot Wolfclaw laying in her nest, two tiny kits by her belly.

"They're so cute!" Smokefur quickly comments. Wolfclaw purrs.

"Thank you." Wolfclaw replies.

"What are their names?" Adderpaw then asks curiously.

"This black and white tom-kit is named Patchkit." Wolfclaw says.

"Makes sense because he's covered in black patches." Ashpaw meows.

"This completely black tom-kit that looks a lot like Swiftfang is

named Blackkit." Wolfclaw meows. "And then, this gray and white she-kit is named Daisykit." She informs her visitors.

"I really love their names, especially Daisykit." Duskstorm comments.

"Thank you. I came up with her name." Wolfclaw replies. She still looks exhausted from giving birth.

Then, they all decide to give Wolfclaw her space. They say goodbye to the queen and then they leave the nursery.

UPDATED ALLEGIANCES

I will do this a few times throughout the book.

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER Hawkstar— Solid brown she-cat with amber eyes

DEPUTY Pineshade— Dark gray tom with green eyes

MEDICINE CATS Acornfall— Light brown tabby tom with blue eyes
Cloudheart— White she-cat with blue eyes

WARRIORS Beetlenose— Black tom
Ebonyfrost— Brown-and-white she-cat
Frogleap— Black-and-white tom
Mousetuft— Pale brown she-cat
APPRENTICE, Ashpaw (gray she-cat)
Flamepelt— Dark ginger tabby tom
Icewhisker— White she-cat
Swiftfang— Black tom
APPRENTICE, Adderpaw (brown tabby tom with blue eyes)
Fernpool— Black-and-gray she-cat
Applebranch— Ginger tom
Duskstorm— Gray she-cat
Smokefur— Dark gray she-cat

QUEENS Wolfclaw— Gray tabby she-cat, (mother to Daisykit, a gray-and-white tabby she-kit; Blackkit, a black tom-kit; and Patchkit, a black-and-white tom-kit)

ELDERS Jaggedfoot— Black-and-white tom
Nightbreeze— Black she-cat
Juniperleaf— Ginger she-cat
Jayflight— Blueish gray tom

THUNDERCLAN

LEADER Briarstar— Gray tabby tom

DEPUTY Mintleaf— Brown tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CATS Flintpelt— Gray tom
Goldenfeather— Ginger-and-white she-cat

WARRIORS Lakeshine— Silver tabby she-cat
Olivepatch— Black-and-white tom
Owlwing— Gray-and-white she-cat
Dappledpelt— Tortoiseshell-and-white she-cat
Finchflight— Gray tom
Oakbranch— Dark cream tom
Paledawn— Cream she-cat
Lionpounce— Ginger tom
Lilypetal— White she-cat
APPRENTICE, Wasppaw (pale gray tabby tom)
Dewstone— Gray-and-white tabby tom
APPRENTICE, Violetpaw (cream she-cat)
Thistleseed— Golden-brown tabby she-cat
Russetpelt— Ginger she-cat
Sparrowfeather— Brown tom
Rosethorn— Brown-and-white she-cat

QUEENS N/A

ELDERS Seedfall— Ginger she-cat
Cinderfur— Dark gray she-cat

WINDCLAN

LEADER Mothstar— Pale brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes

DEPUTY Mudstep— Brown tom

MEDICINE CAT Nectarmist— Pale ginger she-cat

WARRIORS Stormwind— Dark gray tom
Weedwhisker— Brown tom

Whitebird— White she-cat
Snakefang— Gray tabby tom
Mistysky— Pale gray she-cat
Dovewhisper— Gray she-cat
Blackpelt— Black tom
Daisystem— Black-and-white she-cat
Sunflame— Ginger tom
APPRENTICE, Stonepaw (gray tom)
Stagdust— Brown tabby tom
Yelloweyes— Black she-cat
APPRENTICE, Meadowpaw (brown she-cat)
Rabbitear— Pale brown tom
Quickstep— Gray tabby tom
Ravencall— Black tom
Petalstorm— Tortoiseshell she-cat

QUEENS Hazelclaw— Tortoiseshell she-cat

ELDERS Dawnberry— Brown tabby she-cat

RIVERCLAN

LEADER Otterstar— Brown tom with green eyes

DEPUTY Splashleap— Silver tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT Blueshine— Blueish gray she-cat
Blizzardsnow— White tom

WARRIORS Troutfin— Brown tabby tom
Ripplecreek- Gray tabby tom
Sweetberry- Tortoiseshell she-cat
Sandfern- Pale ginger tom
Reedstorm- Brown tabby tom
APPRENTICE, Doepaw (black-and-white she-cat)
Primrosefrost- Pale brown tabby she-cat
Duskshadow— Black-and-white she-cat
Moonfeather- White she-cat with black splotches
Cloverbush- Brown tom
Darkcloud- Black tom

Puddlesplash— Brown-and-white tom
Shellclaw— Brown she-cat

QUEENS Minnowfur— Silver tabby she-cat

ELDERS Dapplefoot— Tortoiseshell she-cat

SKYCLAN

LEADER Honeystar— Pale brown tabby she-cat with yellow eyes

DEPUTY Rainbreeze— Gray tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT Littlepoppy— Golden-brown tabby she-cat

WARRIORS Brightflame— Ginger-and-white tom
Sootpelt— Gray tom
Twigshade— Black tom
Shrewfur— Brown tom
Birchleaf— Brown-and-white she-cat
Lightningclaw— Dark brown tom
Foxtail— Golden-brown tom
Tawnytuft— Ginger-and-white she-cat
Badgerscar— Black-and-white tom
APPRENTICE, Bristlepaw (ginger she-cat)
Eaglefeather— Brown tabby tom
Blossomsnow— Gray-and-white she-cat
Echowhisper— Gray she-cat
Strikeclaw— Black-and-white tom
Robinflight— Dark ginger she-cat
Crowshadow— Black she-cat

QUEENS N/A

ELDERS Fallenbranch— Brown tabby tom

Chapter 8

It's been another full moon. Four moons have passed since Adderpaw and Ashpaw became apprentices. Adderpaw and Ashpaw are being taken to their second gathering. They walk along with the other ShadowClan cats going to the gathering, on their way to the log bridge.

"I'm nervous." Ashpaw meows to Adderpaw.

"So am I. I hope everything goes well." Adderpaw replies, walking alongside his littermate.

Just like last time, the apprentices walked on the log bridge in between two warriors in case they slipped. Once they got to the island, the other clans were already there. Adderpaw notices ThunderClan's new leader. *I hope he's nothing like Buzzardstar.* He thinks. He sticks with his clan and watches as Hawkstar leaps up onto a branch of the large tree and Pineshade sits not far away.

"All of the clans are here, so the gathering shall begin." Mothstar meows. She's the oldest of the leaders, therefore the wisest. "Briarstar, ThunderClan's new leader, you may speak first." She meows. The tom nods.

"ThunderClan has been doing well. We are doing well with fresh kill and we have two new warriors, Sparrowfeather and Rosethorn." Briarstar shades.

"That's good to hear." Hawkstar then replies. "I'll go next." She says. "ShadowClan, like ThunderClan, has been doing well on fresh kill, but the fact that leafbare is approaching is worrying. We also have two new warriors, Duskstorm and Smokefur. Also, not long ago, a queen named Wolfclaw gave birth to three beautiful kits." She meows.

"That's great news!" Honeystar meows. "SkyClan has been doing well, prey has been plentiful. But, about a quarter moon ago, a tree fell in our camp. Thankfully, no cat was hurt." She shares. "Otterstar, you may speak next." She meows to the RiverClan leader.

"RiverClan has been doing well on prey. The fish have been swimming a lot lately, which is great for us. Other than that, I have nothing else to share." Otterstar meows. "Now, Mothstar." He meows, nodding to the WindClan leader.

"Oddly enough, a fire started on the moor a half moon ago." Mothstar meows.

"We saw the smoke." Briarstar comments.

"Lightning struck the tall grass, which lead to a fire." Mothstar shares. "Thankfully, it was let out early and no cat was harmed. We have had less fresh kill than we normally do at this time. I believe it has to do with the fire." She meows.

Then, the gathering was dismissed. ShadowClan gathered back up and began to walk back to camp together.

"That was a very quick gathering. Probably the quickest I've ever been to. Short and simple." Hawkstar tells the rest of ShadowClan.

"That's good, because at the last gathering I was at there was a huge battle." Ashpaw comments.

"I'm so glad nothing bad happened again. Everything seemed peaceful." Adderpaw meows.

"And that's how gatherings are supposed to be." Pineshade meows.

Adderpaw enjoys the cool breeze blowing his fur. The air has been getting cooler, and some of the trees have leaves that have changed color. It will be Adderpaw's first leafbare. He was born at the end of leafbare previously, so he wasn't old enough to fully experience it. What has been said about it worries him though.

A lot of cats catch greencough during leafbare apparently, and it kills many cats. Adderpaw thinks. *I just hope no one in ShadowClan catches*

it. Maybe I wouldn't mind if Duskstorm catches it though. I'd like to see her in a weak position. He thinks. *And there's a lack of fresh kill because they're all hiding from the cold weather. I hope it's not as bad as I think it will be.* He thinks.

Then, the ShadowClan cats that went to the gathering made it back to camp.

"Adderpaw! Ashpaw!" Adderpaw hears a familiar voice call. He is in shock once he sees Smokefur darting towards them like a rabbit. He yowls a little once the larger cat tackles him to the ground.

"See!? I would you both that it wouldn't be bad!" Smokefur meows, purring a little.

"Was that necessary..?" Adderpaw asks the gray she-cat.

"I'll just let you two lovebirds chat. I'm going to talk to Duskstorm." Ashpaw meows, walking away. Adderpaw just ignored the teasing from this littermate.

"Nope! It just seemed like fun!" Smokefur meows. "It reminds me of the time I thought you were a squirrel! Back when I was an apprentice too!" She meows.

"Oh yeah." Adderpaw meows. "Why are you acting like this? What in StarClan did you eat?" He asks.

"Oh, nothing actually. I'm just in a playful mood." Smokefur replies. Then, Adderpaw hears the warrior's stomach growl.

"Speaking of eating, I'm going to grab something from the fresh kill pile. Wanna share?" Smokefur asks.

"Sure, but why this late?" Adderpaw replies.

"Because I want to." Smokefur replies.

"You're like a kit in a warrior's body." He comments. Smokefur finally gets off him and walks over to the fresh kill pile.

"What do you want?" Smokefur asks him. Adderpaw gets up off the

ground. He licks his fur to try to get the dirt out.

"Nothing specific. Just get whatever you want." Adderpaw replies.

"Okay!" Smokefur replies, taking a large bird from the fresh kill pile. She carries in it her jaws. "I'm so hungry I could eat this thing all by myself!" She meows, her voice muffled. She purrs with amusement.

"Then go ahead." Adderpaw replies.

"No, I'm just exaggerating. Do you really think I could eat this by myself? It's gigantic!" Smokefur replies, her voice still muffled. Adderpaw purrs.

Smokefur then carries the bird to a spot where they can eat together. Adderpaw follows her. Then, Smokefur drops the bird and the two cats crouch down next to each other. They pluck off all of the feathers first and then they eat. Soon, the two cats finish the whole bird.

"Thanks for eating with me, Adderpaw!" Smokefur replies. "Now, sleep well." She meows.

"You sleep well too." Adderpaw replies. Then, Adderpaw walks to the apprentices den and Smokefur walks to the warriors den. Then, Adderpaw curls up in his nest and slowly begins to drift off to sleep.

Chapter 9

It is now leafbare, and Adderpaw's fears about it were accurate. Many cats have greencough and there's a lack of fresh kill. The previous night, the clan lost an elder, Jayflight, to greencough. Adderpaw wasn't very close to the elder, but he really enjoyed the old tom's stories.

Due to the lack of fresh kill, more hunting patrols have been being sent out than usual. Adderpaw just so happens to be on one right now. The patrol is led by Mousetuft, and Ashpaw, Swiftfang, and Applebranch are with them.

Adderpaw sniffed the air for the scent of prey. Then, lucky Adderpaw catches the scent of mouse. He follows the scent, then spots the mouse. The tabby crouches down low and quietly and slowly sneaks closer to the mouse, making sure his paws don't crunch too loud on top of the snow. Then, he pounces. He bites into the mouse's neck, killing it instantly. He grabs it in his jaws and looks up proudly.

"Good job, Adderpaw!" Ashpaw says to her littermate.

"Thanks." Adderpaw replies.

The patrol as a whole didn't find much though. Other than Adderpaw's mouse, the patrol only caught a skinny squirrel and a crow. Adderpaw carries his mouse in his jaws on the way back to camp. Once he enters camp, he gently places his mouse into the fresh kill pile.

"Adderpaw!" The brown tabby then hears. He turns around to see Duskstorm dashing towards him.

"Uh, what is it Duskstorm?" Adderpaw asks his rival.

"I have terrible news." Duskstorm replies.

"And what is the terrible news?" Adderpaw asks, tilting his head a little.

"It's Smokefur. She has greencough." Duskstorm responds.

Oh no... Adderpaw thinks.

"I should go see her." Adderpaw then meows.

"Yes, and get as close to her as you possibly can." Duskstorm advises.

"Why don't you do that instead? You're her littermate after all." Adderpaw replies.

"You're the cat who has a crush on her." Duskstorm teases.

"How many times do I have to tell you? We're just friends." Adderpaw replies coldly.

"Whatever you say." Duskstorm meows then walks away.

Adderpaw walks towards the medicine cat den. *I really hope she fights it off.* He thinks. *I don't want to lose yet another friend.*

He walks into the medicine cat den to see all of the sick cats: Hawkstar, Wolfclaw, Patchkit, Frogleap, Jaggedfoot, and, of course, Smokefur, who just found out she caught it.

"I don't think it's a good idea to come in here, Adderpaw." Acornfall meows right as he suddenly appears in front of the apprentice.

"I want to see Smokefur." Adderpaw meows.

"I'm sorry, but you can't come in. We don't want to risk any more cats catching greencough." Acornfall replies.

"Adderpaw?" Adderpaw then hears a familiar voice say. *Smokefur.* He thinks.

"Smokefur!" Adderpaw meows. "I want to come in and see you, but I

can't. I hope you feel better soon!" He calls into the medicine cat den. "I hope all of you do." He adds.

"Thank you." Adderpaw then hears a few weak replies say.

"No, go." Acornfall meows. Then, Adderpaw finally obeys and leaves the medicine cat den.

Is greencough really that contagious? Adderpaw thinks as he walks out.

"Oh! Adderpaw! I was looking for you." Adderpaw hears. He sees Cloudheart approach him. "Can you come with me to gather more herbs? I need more than one cat to carry all of them back." She meows.

"Sure." Adderpaw replies.

Cloudheart and Adderpaw then leave the ShadowClan camp.

"Just follow me." Cloudheart tells Adderpaw. So, Adderpaw follows the white medicine cat. After a bit of walking, they finally reach their destination.

"Here we go! Catmint!" Cloudheart meows. "Grab as much as you can. We need enough for all of the cats with greencough." She instructs as she grabs some out of the ground. Adderpaw then begins to do the same. Soon, both of the jaws were filled with catmint.

"Let's go." Cloudheart says with a muffled voice. Cloudheart takes the lead as the two cats began to head back to camp.

"How bad is greencough, really?" Adderpaw then asks the medicine cat curiously.

"Greencough is a very severe cough and it claims the lives of many cats." Cloudheart explains. "It spreads quickly and is highly contagious." She meows with a muffled voice.

"How likely will a cat die from it?" Adderpaw asks.

"It is possible, but it is more fatal for elders and kits." Cloudheart explains.

Oh StarClan, poor Jaggedfoot and Patchkit. I hope they survive. Adderpaw thinks.

"Thank you." Adderpaw replies with a muffled voice as they walk back through the entrance of the camp.

"Just drop it by the entrance of the medicine cat den and I'll take care of the rest. Thank you so much." Cloudheart meows. Adderpaw then does as he is told.

"You're welcome." Adderpaw says once he drops the catmint. Cloudheart then does the same. Adderpaw hears coughing coming from inside of the medicine cat den.

I feel so bad for them.. I'm terrified for all of them, but especially Hawkstar and Smokefur. Hawkstar still has all nine of her lives, so I believe she'll be fine. Smokefur worries me the most. I don't want to lose another friend. Adderpaw thinks. He then walks away from the medicine cat den and towards the apprentice den. He then walks inside and curls up in his nest.

Chapter 10

It is now the end of leafbare. Thankfully, not many cats died. The only losses were two ShadowClan elders, Jayflight and Jaggedfoot, and Hawkstar lost a life. Patchkit was very lucky to survive, so now, his name was officially changed to Luckykit. Adderpaw personally thought the name change was unnecessary, but it's what Wolfclaw wanted and Swiftfang approved.

It has been getting warmer lately, so Adderpaw is very happy about that. That's not the only thing he's happy about though. Today is a very special day for him and Ashpaw. It is time for both of their warrior assessments. Adderpaw is very excited.

"Is it time to go now?" Adderpaw asks excitedly, looking back at his mentor, Swiftfang.

"Yes, let's go." Swiftfang replies. Then, Adderpaw, Ashpaw, Swiftfang, Mousetuft, and Hawkstar walked out of camp.

"First, you will demonstrate your hunting skills." Hawkstar explains. "You two will take turns to hunt. I will watch each of you from the trees and shadows to observe your hunting skill and see if you're ready to become a warrior." She says as they walked.

"Then, you will demonstrate your battle skills. Each of you will have a practice fight with your mentor. Depending on the skills you show, I will see whether or not you're ready to become a warrior." Hawkstar then explains. Then, the cats stop.

"We will start hunting here. Adderpaw, you will go first." Hawkstar meows. Adderpaw nods and walks off. He sniffs the air, trying to catch a whiff of prey. Fresh kill has been scarce all leafbare, but it has starting to get better as newleaf approaches.

Then, the tabby catches the scent of squirrel. *Yes! Great, a squirrel!*

He thinks. Then, he spots it. Adderpaw crouches down low and slowly and quietly sneaks closer to the squirrel, then, he leaps. Once he lunged for the squirrel, Adderpaw bites its neck. The squirrel goes limp in his jaws. It's a fairly large squirrel, reminding him of when Smokefur mistook him for a large squirrel many moons ago.

"Great job Adderpaw!" Hawkstar meows from a bush. She then gets out of the bush. "Now, let's head back and Ashpaw can hunt." She meows. They then walk back together. Adderpaw carries the squirrel in his jaws. Then, they return.

"Wow! Nice squirrel!" Ashpaw meows happily at Adderpaw. He then drops the squirrel.

"Thanks!" Adderpaw replies with a bit of a purr.

Then, Adderpaw waits as Ashpaw takes the hunting portion of the warrior assessment. Not long after, Ashpaw returns with a bird.

"Nice catch!" Adderpaw meows at Ashpaw.

"Thank you." Ashpaw replies with a muffled voice, her mouth full of feathers.

"Now, it's time for the fighting portion of the assessment." Hawkstar meows. "Each of you will practice fight your mentor, and I will observe. Then, based off your hunting and your battling, I will decide whether or not you're ready to become a ShadowClan warrior." She says. "Now, get with your mentor."

Adderpaw does what he is told and goes up to Swiftfang.

"When I tell you to, you may start." Hawkstar meows. "Now... start!" She says.

Adderpaw leaps for Swiftfang, but Swiftfang quickly dodges. Then, Adderpaw feels Swiftfang's body slam against him and knock him over. Swiftfang pins Adderpaw, but Adderpaw is not giving up easily. He wants to be a warrior. He uses the power of one of his hind legs to throw the warrior off of him. Then, right when he gets up, he leaps for Swiftfang and then pretends to scratch his side. Swiftfang persists though. He tries to pretend to scratch Adderpaw,

but Adderpaw dodges before he can. He speeds right past Swiftfang, and pretends to scratch his other side as he speeds past.

"That's it. You win." Swiftfang meows. "Nice job, Adderpaw." He meows.

"Thank you." Adderpaw replies. Not long after, Ashpaw was finished with the fighting portion too.

"Let's head back to camp." Hawkstar meows. The cats then walk back to camp together. Then, once they got back to camp, Hawkstar leaped onto the high branch.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Hawkstar calls out. The clan then gathers beneath the high branch.

"Today, young Adderpaw and Ashpaw have passed their warrior assessments." Hawkstar announces. Adderpaw is overwhelmed with joy. *Marshpaw, I did it.* He thinks.

"They will now become warriors of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows. "Adderpaw, please come forward." She says. Then, Adderpaw does what he is told.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn." Hawkstar meows. She then looks down at Adderpaw. He looks back up at her happily.

"Adderpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Adderpaw then responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Adderpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Addertooth. StarClan honors your forethought and intelligence, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

The clan begins to cheer Adderpaw's warrior name. "Addertooth! Addertooth!" They cheer. This is something Addertooth has always dreamed of. *Marshpaw, I'm Addertooth now. I hope I made you proud I became a warrior not just for myself, but for the both of us.* He thinks.

"Thank you, Hawkstar." Addertooth meows happily and steps back to where he was.

"Now, Ashpaw, please come forward." Hawkstar meows. Ashpaw does what she is told. Addertooth watches with pride.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend her to you as a warrior in her turn." Hawkstar meows. She looks down at Ashpaw.

"Ashpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Ashpaw responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Ashpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Ashcloud. StarClan honors your strength and strategy and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

The clan then cheers Ashpaw's new name. "Ashcloud! Ashcloud!" They cheer.

Hawkstar leaps off of the high branch and rests her muzzle on both Addertooth's and Ashcloud's heads and the two new warriors each lick their leader's shoulder.

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Hawkstar announces and then walks off.

Addertooth is filled with even more joy as Smokefur dashes over to him.

"Congratulations! I'm so happy for you! I knew you could do it! Duskstorm is a being really fox-hearted right now, but just ignore her. She's just always has been jealous of your potential." Smokefur

meows.

"Thanks." Addertooth replies and purrs a little. His joyful mood suddenly ends once he looks over and spots Ashcloud and Applebranch chatting and then their muzzles touch.

No. I'm not going to allow this. Ashcloud can't become mates with Applebranch. He won't treat her how she should be treated. Addertooth thinks, getting a bit overprotective over his littermate. *I'll have to stop this somehow. Ashcloud deserves someone a lot better than him. If he does her wrong at any point, he's dead.* He thinks.

"Hey, are you okay Addertooth?" Smokefur meows. "It's funny to say your warrior name because I'm so used to Adderpaw." She adds with a purr of amusement.

"Yeah, I'm fine." Addertooth replies.

"If you're thinking about Duskstorm, just don't worry about her." Smokefur then meows.

"No, I was just in thought about everything, that's all." Addertooth replies.

"Okay then." Smokefur then replies.

Chapter 11

It is now newleaf. All of ShadowClan has been enjoying the warmer weather now and prey is no longer scarce. Addertooth is enjoying his time as a warrior so far. He is very happy. However, there's something that's been bothering him since the day he became a warrior. Ashcloud and Applebranch. They have been getting suspiciously close recently, which has been upsetting and worrying him. Addertooth finally decides to approach Ashcloud about it. Addertooth walks over to his littermate, who is talking to Applebranch at the moment. The two cats are laying in the warm sun together.

"Hey, can I talk to you, in private?" Addertooth asks Ashcloud once he gets over to her, flicking his tail.

"Sure." Ashcloud replies. She gets up and the two cats walk off to a separate part of camp to talk.

"What is it?" Ashcloud asks the brown tabby, tilting her head a little.

"You need to stop talking to Applebranch." Addertooth meows.

"What? Why?!" Ashcloud replies. Her mood changes in an instant.

"You two are getting really close and I don't like that." Addertooth answers, looking away. He is upset.

"What's wrong with me getting close to him? He's a very nice tom." Ashcloud replies coldly.

"I'm afraid you two will become mates and then he doesn't treat you right. I don't want you to be heartbroken." Addertooth replies.

"You don't have any control over what I decide to do. Applebranch

wouldn't do that to me anyways. He's very sweet." Ashcloud replies, angry at her littermate. "It's my life, so I have to make my own decisions and you can't stop me from making them." She meows.

"I'm just not comfortable with you getting close to him." Addertooth meows.

"Too bad, because I'm getting close to him and you can't stop me." Ashcloud snaps. "I've had a crush on him since we were apprentices, so this is an accomplishment for me. Don't ruin my bond with him, okay? If we become mates, then that's none of your business." She meows.

"But it is my business, Ashcloud. You're my littermate and I want what's best for you." Addertooth replies.

"If you want what's best for me, then let me bond with Applebranch." Ashcloud replies coldly as she walks away from Addertooth and back to Applebranch. "I love him and you can't do anything to stop me." She adds.

Addertooth sighs. "What did I just do...?" He mumbles. He then walks back over to where he was before, sitting underneath the shade of a nearby pine tree.

I guess I should just back off from now on. I don't think I can do anything to change her mind about him. Addertooth thinks, looking down at the ground. Then, he feels the warmth of another cat's fur rub against him. He is in shock. He quickly looks over to see Smokefur. She purrs with amusement.

"Your reaction was hilarious!" The dark gray she-cat meows. Addertooth can't help but purr with amusement as well.

"You caught me by surprise." Addertooth meows.

"Yep!" Smokefur replies. Recently, Addertooth and Smokefur have been getting even closer than they already were. Addertooth is currently very confused about his possible feelings for her. He always thought the she-cat was funny and beautiful, but now he's thinking he might have possible romantic feelings for her. He

doesn't know if she feels the same way though, so he just keeps it all to himself.

Her personality is very attractive. She's sweet and funny. I think those are traits that I'm personally attracted to. She would make a good mate and would be good with kits. Addertooth thinks. *I find myself thinking about her a lot. But does that mean I like her that way? I don't know yet.* He thinks.

"Hey, are you okay?" Smokefur then asks Addertooth.

"Uh, yeah, why?" Addertooth replies.

"You were just staring at me." Smokefur meows.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I just think you're beautiful." Addertooth meows, thinking it was a good time to say something like that. Then, instant regret. *Agh! Why did I say that! I'm such an idiot! I basically just flirted with her, but I'm actually still confused about my feelings.* He thinks.

"Oh.. thank you, then. That's so sweet!" Smokefur replies, beginning to purr.

Thank StarClan! The reaction from her is positive. Addertooth thinks. *And... Duskstorm. She's teased me and Smokefur for a long time. She's my rival. How will she feel if I fall for her littermate?* He thinks.

Addertooth then looks over at Ashcloud and Applebranch as they chat and eavesdrops on their conversation.

"You seem like they've been bothering you." Smokefur meows. Addertooth nods.

"They have. They have been getting too close. I'm afraid they're going to become mates." Addertooth replies.

"Shouldn't you be happy if they become mates though? It's great news." Smokefur meows.

"It's just that I'm not sure that Applebranch will treat Ashcloud the way she deserves." Addertooth replies.

"I can see where you're coming from. That's an odd difference between you and Ashcloud and me and Duskstorm. If Ashcloud gets a mate you'll be worried that she won't be treated right, but if Duskstorm gets a mate I will be very happy because now I know that she will get on his nerves and not mine." Smokefur meows. "Or her, you never know. Duskstorm has always been more hostile to toms."

"Yeah." Addertooth replies and nods. "I wonder if I'll fall in love." He then meows.

"What if you already have?" Smokefur asks.

"What do you mean?" Addertooth then asks one return.

"Like, maybe you've already fallen in love and you don't realize it. Is there a she-cat that catches your eye? Ashcloud, maybe? Maybe you're jealous?" Smokefur meows. Addertooth shakes his head.

"No, gross. Even though we weren't born from the same cats, she's still like a littermate to me." Addertooth replies. He notices a small sigh of relief from Smokefur that he probably wasn't supposed to hear.

"I understand that." Smokefur replies. Then, something about Ashcloud and Applebranch's conversation completely catches Addertooth's attention.

"Ashcloud, will you be my mate?" He hears.

"Yes!" Addertooth hears Ashcloud reply happily. He feels very upset as he listens to their conversation and watches them.

"Wow, that's interesting." Smokefur meows, noticing it too.

Remember Addertooth, just leave Ashcloud alone. It's her choice, if it goes wrong she has to deal with the consequences. Addertooth thinks. *I like Applebranch a lot, he's really nice, but I'm just afraid of Ashcloud having a mate. I don't want her to get hurt.*

Info on the Story's Placement in the Warriors Timeline

Addertooth's Story takes place in the same universe as the book series, but far into the future.

This is just an AU though and nothing that happened after the current canon is canon in this book. The conclusion of A Vision of Shadows is still yet to release and so is a whole new series after it. The only things canon in this universe are everything that happened from River of Fire and earlier.

Here are the leader orders for each clan according to this universe:

ShadowClan:
Shadowstar
Hollystar
Brindlestar
Lilystar
Blizzardstar
Snowstar
Brightwhisker
Flowerstar
Ripplestar
Marshscar
Yellowstar
Sedgestar
Dawnstar
Houndstar
Cedarstar
Raggedstar
Brokenstar
Nightstar
Runningnose (temporarily)
Tigerstar
Blackstar

Rowanstar
Tigerstar
Juniperstar
Violetstar
Bristlestar
Cinderstar
Froststar
Nettlestar
Russetstar
Sorrelstar
Tornstar
Volestar
Spottedstar
Silverstar
Palestar
Mallowstar
Fallenstar
Copperstar
Cherrystar
Boulderstar
Hawkstar

ThunderClan:
Thunderstar
Owlstar
Whitestar
Finchstar
Lionstar
Vinestar
Morningstar
Redstar
Oakstar
Doestar
Pinestar
Sunstar
Bluestar
Firestar
Bramblestar
Ivystar
Sparkstar

Plumstar
Foxstar
Goldenstar
Gravelstar
Stormstar
Tansystar
Hollowstar
Icestar
Maplestar
Poppystar
Sagestar
Waspstar
Tinystar
Whiskerstar
Sleekstar
Buzzardstar
Briarstar

WindClan:
Windstar
Gorsestar
Duststar
Stonestar
Hazelstar
Featherstar
Dovestar
Fallowstar
Birchstar
Rabbitstar
Swiftstar
Heatherstar
Tallstar
Onestar
Harestar
Smokestar
Scorchstar
Petalstar
Mossystar
Rosestar
Shrewstar

Quickstar
Sunnystar
Whitestar
Swallowstar
Shimmerstar
Meadowstar
Kestrelstar
Fleetstar
Firestar
Puddlestar
Mothstar

RiverClan:
Riverstar
Emberstar
Darkstar
Splashheart
Troutstar
Reedstar
Ivystar
Talonstar
Willowstar
Birchstar
Darkstar
Volestar
Hailstar
Crookedstar
Leopardstar
Mistystar
Reedstar
Lizardstar
Sleekstar
Ripplestar
Pebblestar
Patchstar
Oatstar
Tumblestar
Sheepstar
Spiderstar
Wildstar

Songstar
Sootstar
Berrystar
Dapplestar
Moonstar
Otterstar

SkyClan:
Skystar
Birchstar
Beechstar
Mothpelt
Maplestar
Dewstar
Hawkstar
Robinstar
Rowanstar
Darkstar
Fennelstar
Flystar
Cloudstar
Buzzardstar
Spiderstar
Leafstar
Hawkstar
Quailstar
Larkstar
Jaystar
Gorsestar
Shadestar
Thornstar
Timberstar
Wolfstar
Deerstar
Ratstar
Lilystar
Creekstar
Mudstar
Squirrelstar
Thrushstar

Honeystar

As you can tell by the leaders, this is far into the future, assuming the current clans do not change at all.

Some Fun Facts

• Addertooth is a descendant of Tigerstar and Dovewing, which means he's also a descendant of the evil Tigerstar (Hawkstar's side of the family), so he has both ShadowClan and ThunderClan blood along with kittypet blood from Cloudtail
• Addertooth has a bit of PTSD
• Addertooth also has Paranoid Personality Disorder
• Buzzardstar went to the dark forest
• Duskstorm is being visited by dark forest cats in her dreams
• Duskstorm and Smokefur's father is Pineshade but their mother died from greencough. They had another littermate, Stormkit, but he was too weak and died a day after birth.
• Addertooth's giant tooth that sticks out of his mouth is actually an injury from when he was being born. His littermates all died during birth. They weren't even given names.
• Applebranch's and Cloudheart's parents are Icewhisker and Flamepelt
• Many disasters have happened in the clans recently, which has led to many deaths, which explains the lower amount of cats in the clans.
• Swiftfang and Fernpool are littermates and so are Wolfclaw and Icewhisker
• Very old stories are told to the kits of the clans. These include stories of Tigerstar, Firestar, and the battle with the dark forest. Every ThunderClan cat still knows who Firestar was and his importance.
• Hawkstar currently has 8 lives, and only a few cats know this.
• Hawkstar kept her pregnancy a secret by pretending to have gained weight by eating a lot, which the cats believed since they trusted their leader. After Adderkit was born, she claimed to have lost the weight due to the harshness of leafbare.

Chaper 12

Greenleaf is near. It is now much warmer near the lake and the trees have gotten their leaves. Addertooth is laying in the warm sun in ShadowClan's camp, while he and Ashcloud share tongues. Suddenly, he hears Hawkstar's voice echo through the camp.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Addertooth hears Hawkstar call.

"Today, three young kits have reached the age of six moons, and are ready to become apprentices." Hawkstar announces to the clan. Addertooth looks up at her.

Oh yeah, I believe Daisykit, Blackkit, and Luckykit are six moons old today. Addertooth thinks.

Addertooth watches as the three kits slowly walk out of the nursery and over to where the clan is gathered. Wolfclaw follows behind them, sitting down with the three kits along with the other cats.

I can't believe they're going to be apprentices already. I feel like they were just born yesterday. Addertooth thinks.

"Daisykit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Daisypaw. Your mentor will be Addertooth. I hope Addertooth will pass down all he knows on to you." Hawkstar says. "Addertooth, you are ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training from Swiftfang, and you have shown yourself to be a intelligent and skilled warrior. You will be the mentor of Daisypaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to her." Hawkstar announces. Addertooth is in shock. He wasn't expecting to be chosen as a mentor for one of Wolfclaw and Swiftfang's kits, but he feels honored.

Daisypaw walks happily over to Addertooth. "I will make sure to teach you well." Addertooth meows, and then the two cats touch noses.

The clan cheers. "Daisypaw! Daisypaw!"

"Blackkit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is also time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Blackpaw. Your mentor will be Duskstorm. I hope Duskstorm will pass down all she knows on to you." Hawkstar says. "Duskstorm, you are ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training from Flamepelt, and you have shown yourself to be a strong and brave warrior. You will be the mentor of Blackpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to him."

Addertooth watches as Blackpaw walks over to Duskstorm. They touch noses and the clan cheers. "Blackpaw! Blackpaw!"

"Finally, Luckykit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is also time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Luckypaw. Your mentor will be Ashcloud. I hope Ashcloud will pass down all she knows on to you." Hawkstar says. "Ashcloud, you are ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training from Mousetuft, and you have shown yourself to be an excellent hunter and skilled warrior. You will be the mentor of Luckypaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to him."

Addertooth watches as Luckypaw walks over to Ashcloud and they touch noses. "Luckypaw! Luckypaw!" The clan cheers.

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Hawkstar then meows, coming down from the high branch.

"When are we going to start training?" Daisypaw asks Addertooth.

"Very soon, but not yet. We have a few things to cover first. First, I have to show you around our territory." Addertooth replies, looking at the apprentice happily.

"Oh, okay. Can Blackpaw and Luckypaw come with us?" Daisypaw asks. "I don't wanna go without them." She meows, her gaze looking over at her two littermates.

"Of course, that's what is planned." Addertooth replies. He then feels a tail tap his shoulder.

"Are you ready?" Ashcloud asks him, Luckypaw by her side.

"Yeah." Addertooth replies. He then spots Duskstorm and Blackpaw. "Let's go." He adds. Then, the three warriors and their apprentices leave the ShadowClan camp and begin to walk over to the SkyClan border.

"You know what we should do?" Duskstorm meows to the other warriors as they walk together.

"What?" Ashcloud replies.

"Group training sessions like we had when we were apprentices. We should have them in the same little clearing too." Duskstorm suggests.

"That's a great idea!" Addertooth meows.

"I agree with Addertooth." Ashcloud also meows.

"Great! We should have our first one soon." Duskstorm meows.

"Group training sessions?" Luckypaw asks. Ashcloud nods.

"It's when all apprentices and their mentors get together and train together. All of us did it together when we were apprentices since we were apprentices at the same time." Ashcloud explains.

"Ooh, okay. Sounds like fun!" Luckypaw meows. Addertooth then feels uncomfortable as Duskstorm gets closer to him.

"I bet Blackpaw will always be better than Daisypaw." Duskstorm whispers.

Oh no, she's going to put our own rivalry onto our apprentices, is she?

But Blackpaw and Daisypaw are such good littermates. They're inseparable. She's going to have such a terrible influence on Blackpaw. Addertooth thinks.

"No, Daisypaw will be better." Addertooth whispers right back, going along with their strong rivalry.

Soon, the cats reach the twoleg path. "This is a twoleg path. The other side of it is SkyClan territory." Duskstorm explains. "Don't ever cross into another clan's territory unless it's urgent and you have permission." She tells the apprentices. The apprentices nod, understanding the rule.

"Are SkyClan cats mean and scary?" Daisypaw asks the warriors.

"Sometimes they can be, but they're just cats just like us." Addertooth replies.

Then, the cats continue walking, but back in the other direction. After a bit of walking, they spot a twoleg nest.

"That's a twoleg nest." Duskstorm explains. "Don't ever get near the twolegs or the nest. Twolegs are dangerous." She tells the apprentices. They nod, listening to the warrior.

Then, they continued to walk together. "Right here, there's a twolegplace. There can be lots of twolegs here, but really only during greenleaf." Duskstorm tells the apprentices. "They should be coming soon." She meows. "In the middle of the lake, there is an island. That's where all of the gatherings take place." She then meows.

Why does Duskstorm have to say everything? I try to speak but she always speaks before Ashcloud or I get the chance to. Addertooth thinks. *But, I shouldn't say anything about this situation. We're mentors now and we have to be good examples to our apprentices.*

Then, the six cats continue. They spot a small thunderpath connected to the greenleaf twolegplace. "This is a thunderpath. There's monsters on thunderpaths, so they're very dangerous. On the other side of the thunderpath is RiverClan territory." Duskstorm

explains.

"Are RiverClan cats mean and scary?" Daisypaw then asks.

"Sometimes. Every clan be scary or mean sometimes, but they're all still cats like us." Addertooth quickly replies. *She seems to be a pretty nervous one. I hope she can break out of her shell eventually.* He thinks.

"Now, let's head back to camp." Duskstorm meows, beginning to walk back. All of the other cats follow her.

"You have a funny tooth." Daisypaw meows to Addertooth.

"Yeah.. I think I was born with it." Addertooth explains.

"That's cool. I wish I had a tooth like that." Daisypaw replies. "Is it true that Swiftfang was your mentor?" She then asks him.

Addertooth nods. "Yeah, not too long ago actually. I'm a young warrior." He replies.

"That's so cool! He was your mentor and now you're mine." Daisypaw meows happily. Addertooth can't help but purr at the small cat.

Soon, the cats got back to camp. Right when he gets back, he spots Smokefur dashing towards him.

"How was it? Congratulations on having your first apprentice!" Smokefur meows.

"Thanks. It went great." Addertooth meows.

"Want to go for a walk?" Smokefur then asks the brown tabby tom.

"Sure." Addertooth replies. Then, the brown tabby and the dark gray cat leave the ShadowClan camp.

"There's something.. that has been on my mind for quite a while.." Smokefur meows once they left camp.

"What is it?" Addertooth asks.

"The thing is... I really like you, Addertooth. Ever since we were apprentices, I thought you were so cute. I may have caught you thinking you were a squirrel that one day, but on that same day, you caught my heart." Smokefur meows. "Everything about you... I love it all." She adds.

"I feel the same way about you, Smokefur." Addertooth replies, begging to purr as his heart beats faster.

"Would you like to be my mate?" Smokefur asks him as they walked side-by-side.

"I'd love to." Addertooth replies, and the two cats continue to walk together, their tails curled together.

Chapter 13

The day before, a battle occurred between ShadowClan and SkyClan at the border. Luckily, no one died or was extremely wounded. Also, of course, ShadowClan won the battle. They got lucky.

Addertooth has a few small wounds from the battle, but SkyClan surrendered before things got too serious, as the warrior code says.

He walks out of the warriors den. In the distance, he spots Hawkstar and Duskstorm chatting.

Duskstorm has been gaining so much power and respect lately, which really worries me. Addertooth thinks. *I know she does not actually have good intentions. It makes me really nervous.* He thinks. He keeps his gaze on the two cats, listening to their conversation about yesterday's battle. Of course, Duskstorm was the cat who led the border patrol that was ambushed. *She has been chosen to lead so many things lately, and her power is growing and growing every second. I hate it. I hate her.* He thinks. He sighs. *I wish I could be as respected as her.* He then thinks, but then, he bears small paws hit the ground near him. He turns around to spot Daisypaw.

"We're doing a group training today, right Addertooth?" His apprentice asks him.

"Yep." Addertooth replies with a nod. "We just need to wait until the others are ready." He meows. Not long after, everyone was ready.

"Let's go." Duskstorm meows and the three warriors and their apprentices leave ShadowClan's camp.

Soon, the cats reach the same small clearing where Addertooth, Ashcloud, and Duskstorm all trained when they were apprentices with their littermates and Applebranch. Of course, *Duskstorm* takes the lead.

"First, we will focus on hunting." Duskstorm meows. "Each of you will go your separate ways along with your mentor. Try to catch something. If you don't, just come back anyways." She explains to the apprentices. "Now, let's go." She meows.

Addertooth and Daisypaw walk further into the forest together. Then, Addertooth notices that Daisypaw had caught the scent of prey. Addertooth moves back and watches as Daisypaw stalks a nearby squirrel. Then, the apprentice leaps for it, killing it with a bite to the neck.

"Great job, Daisypaw. Let's head back." Addertooth meows. The mentor and apprentice then walk back to the small clearing. The other two apprentices and their mentors are already there when they arrive. Luckypaw didn't catch anything but Blackpaw caught a squirrel that is even bigger than Daisypaw's.

"Mine is bigger than yours!" Blackpaw boasts, standing proudly.

Blackpaw has changed a lot recently. He's gotten hostile and is often rude to Daisypaw. Definitely Duskstorm's influence. Addertooth thinks. *I have been telling Daisypaw to ignore Blackpaw and that it's just because of Duskstorm. But, of course, it still bothers her that her previously inseparable littermate is being rude to her.* Addertooth thinks.

"I will catch something better next time, just wait and see!" Daisypaw replies.

"Now, let's focus on our battle skills." Ashcloud then meows, preventing the argument from going any further.

Aw, I wanted to see where this would go. Of course, Daisypaw would win. Addertooth thinks. *If I was the one to speak up, Duskstorm would've lashed out at me, but since she actually likes Ashcloud, she didn't say a word.* He thinks.

"Each apprentice will test their battle training so far by practicing with your mentor. Make sure your claws are sheathed." Ashcloud meows.

"No." Duskstorm then meows. "I'm sorry Ashcloud but it would be better if Luckypaw is the only one battling his mentor and Daisypaw and Blackpaw battle each other." She says.

Okay, I see how it is. It's on. Addertooth thinks.

"Alright then." Ashcloud meows. "Get into your positions and I'll tell you when to start." She explains. Everyone does what they are told. "And... start!" She meows.

Addertooth watches as Daisypaw leaps for Blackpaw, but Blackpaw dodges. Blackpaw then leaps for Daisypaw and slams his littermate down to the ground. He quickly pretends to scratch her face, but then, Blackpaw's claws unsheathe. Daisypaw yowls with pain as one of Blackpaw's claws deeply cuts her eye and then immediately gives in. Addertooth watches in horror as blood drips onto the forest floor.

"Blackpaw! What was said about keeping your claws sheathed?!" Addertooth scolds, hurrying over to Daisypaw. He notices that Ashcloud and Luckypaw stopped practicing. He quickly notices that Daisypaw is kind of wobbly on her paws so he lets her lean against him.

"I-I'm so sorry! It was an accident!" Blackpaw meows, his eyes wide.

"You need to be more careful!" Ashcloud scolds.

Addertooth begins to walk back to camp with Daisypaw leaning against him.

"You're going to be alright.." Addertooth assures his apprentice.

"Let's go back to camp." Ashcloud says, her tone of voice clearly upset. Then, all of the other cats follow Addertooth and Daisypaw back to camp.

When they get back to camp, the cats are all shocked to see Daisypaw's injury. They ask what happened and Ashcloud explains as Addertooth takes Daisypaw to the medicine cat den.

Once they get to the medicine cat den, Cloudheart and Acornfall are

in the den and immediately notice.

"Oh StarClan, Daisypaw! What happened to her eye?!" Cloudheart asks Addertooth as Acornfall helps Daisypaw lay into a nest. He quickly begins to add cobweb to the bleeding eye.

"Blackpaw's claws accidentally unsheathed during training." Addertooth simply explains.

"Oh no, I bet he feels terrible about this. I hope Daisypaw is okay." Cloudheart meows. "Well, I'm going to help Acornfall. Talk to you later!" She meows. Addertooth then exits the medicine cat den.

"Accident." It was an "accident." I know I shouldn't believe that. Duskstorm has to be behind this. She must've organized this. She got Daisypaw and Blackpaw to practice together and earlier she told him what to do to her. She's pure evil and no one notices that but me. She's rising in popularity in the clan and everyone relies on her, even the older warriors. I should do something about this soon. Addertooth thinks.

Later, it was revealed that Daisypaw has been completely blinded in that one eye. However, she soon continued her training like a normal warrior and Addertooth continued to be her mentor, keeping her blind eye in mind. He also concluded, no more battle practice with Blackpaw.

It's been a wild ride, but I enjoy being a mentor. Daisypaw means a lot to me, as if she's my own kit. I care about her so much, and she's been through a lot. If there's anyone who deserves to be a warrior the most, it's her. Addertooth thinks.

Chapter 14

It's been a few moons since what happened to Daisypaw. Today is a very big day. Not long ago, Addertooth, Ashcloud, and Duskstorm confronted Hawkstar. They said that Daisypaw, Luckypaw, and Blackpaw are ready for their warrior assessments. Hawkstar accepted, so now it's time for them. It's been a challenge mentoring a half-blind apprentice, but Addertooth believes that Daisypaw is ready.

"Is it time!?" Daisypaw asks Addertooth excitedly.

"Yes, let's go." Addertooth replies. Then, Daisypaw, Luckypaw, Blackpaw, Addertooth, Ashcloud, Duskstorm, and Hawkstar walked out of camp together.

"First, you will demonstrate your hunting skills." Hawkstar explains. "The three of you will take turns to hunt. I will watch each of you from the trees and shadows to observe your hunting skill and see if you're ready to become a warrior." She says as they walked.

"Then, you will demonstrate your battle skills. Each of you will have a practice fight with your mentor. Depending on the skills you show, I will see whether or not you're ready to become a warrior." Hawkstar then explains. Then, the cats stop.

"We will start hunting here. Blackpaw, you will go first." Hawkstar meows. Blackpaw nods and walks off. Addertooth sits and waits.

Blackpaw soon returns with a snake in his jaws.

"Woah, nice catch Blackpaw!" Luckypaw meows as his littermate returns.

"Now, Daisypaw, it's your turn." Hawkstar meows. Daisypaw nods and Addertooth gets up. Addertooth watches Daisypaw from afar as

she hunts. Addertooth watches as the young cat successfully catches a squirrel.

"Great job Daisypaw!" Hawkstar meows from a bush. She then gets out of the bush. "Now, let's head back and Luckypaw can hunt." She meows. They then walked back together. Daisypaw carries the squirrel in her jaws. Then, they return.

"Wow! Nice squirrel!" Luckypaw meows. Daisypaw then drops the squirrel.

"Thank you!" Daisypaw replies.

Then, they wait as Luckypaw takes the hunting portion of the warrior assessment. Not long after, Luckypaw returns with a bird.

"Nice catch!" Blackpaw meows.

"Now, it's time for the fighting portion of the assessment." Hawkstar meows. "Each of you will practice fight your mentor, and I will observe. Then, based off your hunting and your battling, I will decide whether or not you're ready to become a ShadowClan warrior." She says. "Now, get with your mentor."

Addertooth and Daisypaw face each other.

"When I tell you to, you may start." Hawkstar meows. "Now... start!" She says.

Daisypaw leaps for Addertooth, but Addertooth quickly dodges the apprentice's attack. Daisypaw is shocked as Addertooth slams into her, knocking her over. He has her pinned. Then, Daisypaw fights back by using her hind leg to through the tabby off of her. It works and Addertooth releases the apprentice. Then, Daisypaw takes this moment to leap for Addertooth again, but this time it is a success. She lands right onto the tabby's back and pretends to sink her claws into it. Addertooth knows that the move causes a lot of pain, enough for a cat to flee, so he gives in.

"That's it. You win." Addertooth meows. "Nice job, Daisypaw." He meows.

"Thank you!" Daisypaw replies happily with a bounce.

"I'm really proud of you, Daisypaw." Addertooth meows.

Not long after, Blackpaw and Luckypaw were finished with the fighting portion too.

"Let's head back to camp." Hawkstar meows. The cats then walk back to camp together. Then, once they get back to camp, Hawkstar leaps onto the high branch.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Hawkstar calls out. The clan then gathers beneath the high branch.

"Today, young Daisypaw, Luckypaw, and Blackpaw have passed their warrior assessments." Hawkstar announces. Addertooth is overwhelmed with joy and pride for his apprentice.

"They will now become warriors of ShadowClan." Hawkstar announces. "Daisypaw, please come forward." She says. Then, Daisypaw does what she is told.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend her to you as a warrior in her turn." Hawkstar meows. She then looks down at Daisypaw.

"Daisypaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Daisypaw then responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Daisypaw, from this moment on you will be known as Daisybloom. StarClan honors your determination and kindness, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

The clan begins to cheer Daisypaw's warrior name. "Daisybloom! Daisybloom!" They cheer.

"Thank you, Hawkstar." Daisybloom meows happily and steps back to where she was.

"Now, Blackpaw, please come forward." Hawkstar meows. He does what he is told.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn." Hawkstar meows. She looks down at Blackpaw.

"Blackpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Blackpaw responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Blackpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Blacktail. StarClan honors your strength and courage and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

The clan then cheers Blackpaw's new name. "Blacktail! Blacktail!" They cheer.

"Finally, Luckypaw, please come forward." Hawkstar meows. He does what he is told.

"I, Hawkstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn." Hawkstar meows. She looks down at Luckypaw.

"Luckypaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Luckypaw responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Luckypaw, from this moment on you will be known as Luckyspirit.

StarClan honors your energy and spirit and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

The clan then cheers Luckypaw's new name. "Luckyspirit! Luckyspirit!" They cheer.

Hawkstar leaps off of the high branch and rests her muzzle on all three apprentices' heads and the three new warriors each lick their leader's shoulder.

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Hawkstar announces and then walks off.

"Wait! Can I make a quick announcement while the clan is here? It's not too big, but it's very good news." Ashcloud asks.

"Sure, go ahead Ashcloud." Hawkstar replies. Ashcloud nods and steps forward.

"I'm expecting kits." Ashcloud meows. "I will be moving into the nursery today since my apprentice is now a warrior." She announces. Addertooth is in shock.

Ashcloud... is going to have kits? Applebranch better treat those kits right. He's been doing great with Ashcloud, but he better not mess things up. Yet... I'm still happy for her and I can't wait to meet their kits. They're going to be beautiful. Addertooth thinks as he hears many cats congratulating Ashcloud. He walks up to her.

"Uh, congrats." Addertooth meows to his littermate. "I can't wait to meet them." He meows. It's all he can say at this moment.

"Thank you, Addertooth." Ashcloud meows, gaze shifting to her belly. Addertooth then walks away. He walks over to Daisybloom.

"Words can't express how proud I am of you." Addertooth meows to his former apprentice.

Chapter 15

"Ashcloud had her kits!" Acornfall announces as he exits the nursery. Addertooth has been waiting outside the nursery for a while. He was very nervous while waiting for the birth, so now he is glad that everything went okay. Acornfall looks over at Addertooth.

"Ashcloud and Applebranch want you to come see them." Acornfall informs Addertooth. Addertooth nods and walks into the nursery. He looks inside and sees Ashcloud laying in her nest with two small bundles of fur near her belly.

"They are beautiful.." Addertooth meows. *I am so proud of Ashcloud, but I'm still worried that Applebranch won't be a good father.* He thinks. "What are their names?" He then asks his littermate.

"This ginger she-kit is named Ivykit, and this gray tom kit is named Marshkit." Ashcloud announces. "I've had these two names in mind even before they were born... in memory of them." She says, a bit of sadness can be heard in her voice.

"That's perfect." Addertooth meows, purring a little as he looks at his adoptive niece and nephew. Then, yowls can be heard through the camp. Addertooth looks around in shock as he notices Acornfall rush into the nursery.

"Dogs. They're attacking camp." Acornfall meows with wide eyes. The clan had noticed that there was a group of violent dogs nearby, probably used by twolegs to hunt small animals, but they had no idea that the group would attack the ShadowClan camp.

"Great.." Ashcloud says sarcastically. "My kits were just born and their lives are already threatened." She meows. Addertooth quickly exits the nursery along with Applebranch.

"I'll guard the nursery. You can go help the others if you'd like." Applebranch tells Addertooth. Addertooth nods and dashes off, ready to try to fight off the dogs. They dogs are large, which makes it a major issue for ShadowClan.

Addertooth runs towards a dog and leaps up, landing right on the dog's back. He sinks his claws into the dog's back. The dog then whimpers a little due to the pain.

"Take that!" Addertooth meows, leaping off of the dog's back. The dog lunges for him, but he dodges just in time. He is fighting alongside Pineshade, Icewhisker, Wolfclaw, Luckyspirit, and his mate, Smokefur, against this dog.

"The dogs are headed towards the nursery and the elders' den!" Pineshade yowls once he notices. The deputy notices the fact once the dog gives up on fighting the group of cats and tries to find weaker cats. "Addertooth, come with me. We're going to help defend the nursery. I know how much you care about Ashcloud and her kits, so I think you would be best fit for helping me." He meows.

"Okay." Addertooth replies, and the two cats rush over to the nursery together. Once they get there, Addertooth leaps for one of the dogs. He lands on the dog's head and he bites one of its ears. The dog whimpers a little and tries to shake Addertooth off. It is a success and Addertooth goes flying right off of the dog. He hits the ground with a thud. He groans, but he gets up and keeps on fighting. He leaps again for the dog, and this time on its back. He decides to use the same move from before again. He sinks his claws into the dog's back, but this time he scratches after doing so. The dog whimpers loudly and runs off, now frighting by the warrior's skill.

"Did you see that, Pineshade? I scared off a dog on my own!" Addertooth meows proudly, but there is no response. He turns around to see that Pineshade has been cornered by a dog. He has no way to escape. Addertooth reacts quickly, deciding to use the same move on this dog. He leaps onto the dog's back and sinks his claws into its back. However, the dog does not react. It's like it didn't feel a thing. The dog's eyes are focused on Pineshade. Then, Addertooth watches something he wishes he didn't. The dog then grabs

Pineshade into its jaws and bites hard. Pineshade yowls in pain.

"Pineshade!" Addertooth yowls, his eyes filled with terror. Then, the dog shakes Pineshade, keeping Pineshade in its jaws. Then, it flings the deputy away. Addertooth is filled with complete horror.

"Don't mess with ShadowClan ever again!" Addertooth then yells as he leaps for the dog again. He lands on the dog's back. The dog tries to shake him off again but it does not work. He does the same move yet again and scratches. The dog whimpers in pain and flees. Addertooth looks around to notice that it was the last dog still in ShadowClan's camp. The other cats seem like they have *just* finished fighting off the last dogs left in the camp. Good timing. Then, his gaze focuses on Pineshade.

"Pineshade!" Addertooth cries, rushing over to the clan's deputy. He gently nudges the tom, but there is no response. He looks around at the rest of the clan. All of the cats are very sad.

"Is he the only cat we lost?" Addertooth then asks the rest of the cats. Addertooth is filled with more sadness as a few cats shake their heads.

"We lost Nightbreeze and Juniperleaf too." Duskstorm replies. "And Hawkstar lost a life." She meows.

"Oh no.." Addertooth replies sadly.

Later that night, there were silent vigils for Pineshade, Nightbreeze, and Juniperleaf, who were all killed in the dog attack. Pineshade was Smokefur and Duskstorm's father, so they were very upset. Addertooth is filled from terror from watching his own deputy get killed in front of him. Addertooth stayed strong on the outside for his mate though, since he knew she is going through more pain than he is.

"ShadowClan's new deputy will be announced before moonhigh." Hawkstar announces.

I wonder who it will be? Addertooth thinks. *How great would it be if it is me though? It seems unlikely though since I'm a younger and less*

experienced warrior. Maybe Frogleap, Swiftfang, or Wolfclaw? He thinks. *I trust Hawkstar to make the right decision for ShadowClan.*

Chapter 16

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Hawkstar calls out. The clan then gathers beneath the high branch.

"Sadly, we lost our deputy Pineshade in the dog attack earlier. We will always remember him as a brave and loyal cat that we could always trust." She meows. "But now, as the warrior code says, I must name a new deputy for ShadowClan before moonhigh." She adds, looking down at her clan. It is dark out and there is a soft breeze ruffling the fur of the cats. The moon's light is illuminating the camp.

"After a lot of thinking, I have finally decided on who the new deputy should be." Hawkstar meows.

Please be someone who deserves it. Addertooth thinks.

"I say these words before StarClan, so that the spirits of our warrior ancestors may hear and approve of my choice." Hawkstar meows. Addertooth watches her gaze closely.

"The new deputy of ShadowClan is Duskstorm." Hawkstar announces. "Even though you are young, you have proven yourself to be a strong and loyal warrior who is reliable and can take charge. You have contributed so much lately and I am very grateful for that. So, you are ShadowClan's new deputy." She meows.

"Thank you so much, Hawkstar. I am very grateful." Duskstorm responds.

Out of all of ShadowClan's warriors... all of them... Hawkstar chose Duskstorm to be the new deputy? This is the one thing I didn't want to happen. Duskstorm doesn't deserve to be deputy. She's fox-hearted and I can tell she has bad intentions. I guess I'm the only one who actually has

good enough eyes to see that. Addertooth thinks. He sighs.

But... the real question is... should I do something about this? Should I confront Hawkstar? Thinking about the prophecy... is this what it meant? Whether or not to strike? So I assume that my prophecy is about making the right decisions. So... should I strike or not? Addertooth thinks. *I might really need to do something about this soon. Duskstorm is Smokefur's littermate, but she's getting out of hand... and I feel like she is responsible for Daisybloom's injury.* He thinks. *I hate her.*

Then, Addertooth feels a soft nudge. He turns his head to spot his mate, Smokefur.

"Hey. Are you alright?" Smokefur asks. "I know you don't like this.." She meows, showing sympathy for her mate.

"Yeah, I'm fine. Just a little upset about it." Addertooth replies, looking into his mate's green eyes.

"Do you want to talk about it? We can go for a walk around the forest." Smokefur asks him.

"Sure. That sounds great." Addertooth replies, purring a bit.

"Great! Let's go then!" Smokefur meows excitedly, dashing out of the camp. She's trying to make an effort to cheer him up, and it's actually working.

"Hey! Wait up!" Addertooth meows, chasing after Smokefur. Soon, Smokefur stops and Addertooth catches up.

"Duskstorm may be fox-hearted sometimes, but she has good leadership skills, right? She's been that way since she was a kit. She's also very responsible. So, it might not actually be a very bad thing that she's the new deputy." Smokefur meows as the two cats walk side-by-side. The sounds of crickets and frogs fill their ears and fireflies are flying around them.

"You don't really understand, Smokefur. What if she becomes leader? She hates me. Also, remember how I told you I think she caused Daisybloom's injury? Does any clan cat want a cat who purposely harms her own clanmates as a leader? No!" Addertooth

replies.

"But you don't know for sure, Addertooth. I love you, but it's not safe to make such bold assumptions like that." Smokefur meows. "I hope you don't make assumptions about our kits' personalities and skills right after their born." She jokes.

"Kits?" Addertooth asks. "Do you mean...?" He then adds, hope in his voice.

"Mhm." Smokefur replies and nods. "We're having kits!" She meows happily. "I know that makes things a lot better, right?" She asks.

"Yeah!" Addertooth replies happily. He purrs and rubs against Smokefur lovingly. Smokefur begins to purr as well. Once Addertooth moves away, they gently press their foreheads together.

"When are you moving into the nursery?" Addertooth then asks.

"Very soon." Smokefur replies. The two cats then touch noses.

"I can't wait to meet our kits. We're going to have so much fun playing with them and watching them grow into strong warriors like you and I. I wonder what they'll be like. I assume that we'll probably have three kits. At least one of them is definitely getting my tabby stripes. I hope one is just as fun as you are. They're going to be beautiful, because they're your kits. I bet they'll be best friends with Ivykit and Marshkit. How are you feeling?" Addertooth rambles without stopping to breathe.

"You're making assumptions!" Smokefur replies with a purr of amusement. "And I am feeling great, especially since I'm here with you." She meows.

"That's sweet." Addertooth replies. The gray she-cat then yawns.

"We should get back to camp soon. I'm pretty tired." Smokefur meows.

"Let's head back then." Addertooth replies. Then, the two cats walked back to camp together, leaning against each other as they walked.

I should talk to Hawkstar soon. Addertooth then thinks.

Chapter 17

It's been a few days, and Addertooth has finally decided.

I'm going to talk to Hawkstar about Duskstorm. I think it's the right thing to do. No cat like her deserves to be deputy. No one is aware of her cruel nature like I am. I'm so done with her. Addertooth thinks. He then walks over to the leader's den. Once he gets there, he pokes his head in.

"Hawkstar?" Addertooth meows. He watches as Hawkstar turns her head to face him.

"Oh, hello Addertooth." Hawkstar meows, purring a bit at the sight of her secret son. "What brings you here?" She asks him.

"I'd like to speak with you." Addertooth replies.

"Come on in then." Hawkstar meows. Addertooth obeys, walking inside the leader's den.

"What do you want to talk to me about?" Hawkstar then asks once Addertooth sits down.

"I'd like to talk to you about Duskstorm." He tells her.

"What about her?" Hawkstar asks.

"She's no good. You made a mistake by making her deputy. She may seem like a good cat at first, but she has cruel intentions. She is very rude to me and I believe she organized Daisybloom's injury. She is not a good cat for the position of deputy, and definitely not for the position of leader." Addertooth explains. "I'm solely telling you this because I care for our clan. Duskstorm is not a good cat." He meows.

"No. She's a very good cat. She always follows the warrior code, she

is super loyal, and she is a great leadership role." Hawkstar replies. "You're just imagining things, or you're just jealous that she's deputy and not you." She meows. "She is the perfect cat for the deputy position and I am not changing that." She says.

Wow, okay. Even Hawkstar doesn't believe me. I'm her kit! Addertooth thinks. *Am I really imagining everything?* He asks himself in his head.

"Thank you for listening, Hawkstar." Addertooth meows with no emotion and then leaves the leader's den. The tom sighs as he walks across the ShadowClan camp. He then walks towards the nursery and walks inside. He spots Ashcloud with her kits. They have grown recently. Addertooth also spots his mate, Smokefur, who is expecting their kits very soon. She has grown a lot lately, which is making Addertooth even more excited for the arrival of their kits.

"How are you doing?" Addertooth asks Smokefur, looking at her with concern.

"I'm doing great!" Smokefur replies with her usual energy. Even the fact that she's expecting kits isn't stopping her energy. "I am feeling hungry though." She then adds.

"I'll bring you some fresh kill then." Addertooth replies, quickly exiting the nursery. He walks over to the fresh kill pile and grabs a squirrel, which he knows is Smokefur's favorite. Squirrels mean a lot to the both of them regarding their relationship as well. They started to become close friends as apprentices when Smokefur, Smokepaw back then, thought young apprentice Adderpaw was a squirrel and tackled him. Addertooth purrs at the thought of the meaningful memory. He then walks back over to the nursery. Once he gets there, he walks inside.

"I got you a squirrel." Addertooth meows once he walks inside, his voice muffled.

"Thank you, Addertooth!" Smokefur meows, purring a little. Addertooth then drops the squirrel in front of Smokefur.

"You're welcome." Addertooth replies. Smokefur then begins to eat.

"So... I talked to Hawkstar about Duskstorm." Addertooth meows.

"You what?!" Smokefur meows.

"Yeah.." Addertooth replies.

"That's very bold of you, Addertooth." Smokefur comments.

"I know... but I just felt like I had to do it." He replies.

"So, how did it go?" Smokefur then asks Addertooth.

"It didn't go well. Hawkstar seemed mad at me. She said that I was just imagining things or jealous." Addertooth answers.

"Because you *are* jealous, Addertooth." Ashcloud then meows from the other side of the nursery. She is listening to their conversation.

"Ashcloud! Why is Addertooth jealous of Duskstorm?" Small Marshkit then asks his mother.

"Because Duskstorm is deputy and he isn't." Ashcloud answers her son.

"Ohh okay." Marshkit replies. This makes Addertooth sigh. He wants to make a comment but he decides not to.

"I'm sorry about that, Addertooth." Smokefur replies. "Now I guess we just have to hope that Duskstorm doesn't do bad things." She meows. Addertooth nods.

"I really hope she doesn't." Addertooth meows.

"Of course she wouldn't. Duskstorm is a good cat and she's my best friend." Ashcloud meows. "She may seem rude to you Addertooth, but it's just teasing and a simple rivalry. That's it." She meows, her tone seeming upset. "How did the two of us end up with littermates like you two? You two believe everything you hear." She meows.

"I guess I'll take my leave now." Addertooth meows. He leans down and presses his forehead against Smokefur's. His tail lays on Smokefur's swollen belly. "See you very soon, okay?" He meows.

"Okay." Smokefur replies. Then, Addertooth leaves the nursery. Then, something he wasn't expecting happened.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Hawkstar calls out.

Perfect timing. Addertooth thinks as he gathers with the rest of the clan.

"Today, Beetlenose has talked to me about the possibility of his retirement to the elder's den." Hawkstar announces. She looks down at the senior warrior.

"Beetlenose, is it your wish to give up the name of a warrior and go to join the elders?" Hawkstar asks the tom.

"It is." Beetlenose replies.

"Your Clan honors you and all the service you have given to us. I call upon StarClan to give you many moons of rest." Hawkstar meows. Then, Beetlenose walks off and into the elder's den.

I remember our times training with him. He was Smokefur's mentor, and he was always one of the warriors I looked up to. He is very clever and skilled. I respect his decision to retire since he has gotten pretty old, so he hasn't been able to serve the clan like he used to. Addertooth thinks. *Honestly, I don't want to live until I'm an elder. I want to die before then. The life of an elder seems boring and useless. All you do is lay there with ticks and fleas. Nothing interesting at all.* He thinks.

Chapter 18

It has been around a half moon. During this time, a terrible storm hit the clans, which made the lake flood a little bit. Also, lightning struck a trees in ShadowClan's camp. Thankfully, no cat was hurt.

Addertooth's mind has been on the prophecy a lot. He keeps on wondering more and more about it and its meaning. He is debating whether or not to chat with Acornfall about it again.

Addertooth knows today is a special day. He can just feel it. He knows Marshkit and Ivykit are six moons old now, so he is ready for their apprentice ceremony anytime now. He lays in the sun in camp, grooming himself. He is chatting with Swiftfang.

"I won't be surprised if Marshkit and Ivykit's apprentice ceremony is sometime today." Addertooth meows.

"Yeah, you're right, they're six moons now, correct?" Swiftfang asks. Addertooth nods. His littermate's kits were always like his own kits before he found out he is going to have kits of his own. He cares a lot about them and considers himself to be a great uncle to the kits. Then, the moment he has been waiting for arrives. He watches as Hawkstar leaps onto the highbranch.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Addertooth hears Hawkstar call.

"Today, two young kits have reached the age of six moons, and are ready to become apprentices." Hawkstar announces to the clan. Addertooth looks up at her.

"Called it." Addertooth meows silently.

Addertooth watches as the two kits excitedly walk out of the nursery and over to where the clan is gathered. Ashcloud follows

behind them, sitting down with the two kits along with the other cats. Addertooth can't help but feel a bit of pride.

Soon, I will be sitting at my own kits' apprentice ceremony... and even their warrior ceremony. They will be strong warriors. Addertooth thinks. He purrs a bit at the thought.

"Ivykit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Ivypaw. Your mentor will be Wolfclaw. I hope Wolfclaw will pass down all she knows on to you." Hawkstar says. "Wolfclaw, you are ready to take on another apprentice. You have received excellent training from Spikepelt, and you have shown yourself to be a strong and brave warrior. You will be the mentor of Ivypaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to her." Hawkstar announces.

I'm glad Wolfclaw is given another apprentice. It must've been hard for her as well after losing Marshpaw. Addertooth thinks.

Ivypaw walks over to Wolfclaw and the two cats touch noses.

The clan cheers. "Ivypaw! Ivypaw!"

"Marshkit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is also time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Marshpaw. Your mentor will be Fernpool. I hope Fernpool will pass down all she knows on to you." Hawkstar says. "Fernpool, you are ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training from Pineshade, and you have shown yourself to be a skilled and clever warrior. You will be the mentor of Marshpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to him."

Addertooth watches as Marshpaw walks over to Fernpool. They touch noses and the clan cheers. "Marshpaw! Marshpaw!"

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Hawkstar then meows, coming down from the high branch. Then, Addertooth gets a sudden bad feeling. Something in his head is telling him to go check on Smokefur.

"I'm going to check on Smokefur. I'll be right back." Addertooth meows to Swiftfang.

"I'll be right here when you return." Swiftfang replies. Addertooth then walks over to the nursery and nervously peeks in. He then saw the unexpected.

Smokefur is giving birth! Addertooth thinks. A sudden wave of both fear and excitement hits him.

"I'll go get Acornfall or Cloudheart!" Addertooth meows panicklg and dashes off towards the medicine cat den in search for either of the medicine cats. Luckily for him, he saw Cloudheart in the den once he peeked in. She notices him right away.

"What's wrong, Addertooth?" The white she-cat asks him.

"Smokefur is giving birth!" Addertooth meows in a panic.

"I was expecting this to happen soon!" Cloudheart meows. "I'll be right there as soon as I can!" She adds. Addertooth nods and then dashes back to the nursery. Cloudheart arrived not long after he did.

"Hang in there Smokefur, you can do this." Addertooth meows, trying to both encourage his mate and ensure himself.

"The first one is here!" Cloudheart announces. "It's a brown tabby tom. He looks a lot like a tiny Addertooth!" She meows happily. Addertooth sighs a with a bit of relief. He watches as Cloudheart takes a moment to feel Smokefur's belly.

"I think there's two more." Cloudheart meows. "You got this, Smokefur." She then says. Addertooth nods. He looks away, hating to see his mate in pain. Not long after, he heard Cloudheart meow.

"The second one is here! A gray tabby she-kit. Beautiful!" Cloudheart announces. Addertooth sighs with relief again.

You can do this, my dear. Just one more. Addertooth thinks to himself. Finally, the last kit is born.

"The final kit is here! A brown she-cat!" Cloudheart meows.

Phew... everything is okay. Thank StarClan. Addertooth thinks.

"Would you like to come over and see them, Addertooth?" Cloudheart asks.

"Of course." Addertooth replies. He then walks over to Smokefur, who is licking their newborn kits.

"They're beautiful.." Addertooth meows. "They must've got it from you." He meows.

"But they have your cuteness." Smokefur replies weakly.

"Get some rest, my love." Addertooth meows. "You did great." He meows.

"Let's name the kits first." Smokefur suggests.

"Oh yeah, you're right." Addertooth replies. He watches as Smokefur's green gaze focuses on the first born and largest kit.

"He looks a lot like you, but he has stripes. He's bigger than the other kits. Kind of seems like a tiger with the stripes and all." Smokefur meows. "How about Tigerkit?" She suggests.

"I love that. I bet he's going to be a fierce warrior already." Addertooth replies and purrs. He then looks over at the gray tabby she-kit. "She seems almost like a silver color. For some reason, she reminds me of a moon lighting up a night sky." He meows. "Moonkit?" He suggests.

"That's a beautiful name." Smokefur replies. Then, he watches as she looks over at the youngest and smallest kit, the brown she-cat. "She kind of reminds me of a little sparrow." She meows. "How does Sparrowkit sound?" She suggests.

"That's great." Addertooth replies. "Now that they have their names, get some well-deserved rest." He meows, giving his mate a small lick on the head. He then leaves the nursery.

Chapter 19

It is late at night. All night, Addertooth has been unable to fall asleep since he is overthinking about the prophecy and his position as the leader's secret kit. He looks around at the other cats in the warriors' den. Once he realizes that they are all asleep, Addertooth gets up out of his nest and walks out of the den.

Addertooth walks towards the medicine cat den. *I need to chat with Acornfall.* He thinks. Once he gets there, he peeks inside. Acornfall is not there, since he can only see a fluffy white figure sleeping in the den.

Acornfall might be with Hawkstar then. Where I saw them before. Addertooth thinks. He then sneaks out of ShadowClan's camp, hoping he wasn't spotted. He can hear the crickets and frogs as he sneaks out. Then, he heads towards where he, Acornfall, and Hawkstar met before in the middle of the forest. Soon, he gets there.

He spots Acornfall and Hawkstar curled up with each other. He then walks towards them.

"Sorry to interrupt but... can I speak to Acornfall?" Addertooth asks awkwardly.

"Sure." Hawkstar meows.

"What's the problem?" Acornfall asks the young warrior.

"I would like to know more about the prophecy." Addertooth meows. "I've been thinking about it a lot, and I think it's starting to make sense and apply to my life." He adds. "I've been wondering.. does it have anything to do with the fact that I'm you and Hawkstar's kit? Or battle? Or just decisions in general?" He asks.

"I don't know why you're asking me because I don't know either." Acornfall replies. Then, they hear loud rustling in the bushes behind them.

"What was that?" Addertooth asks, looking behind him.

"Probably just a rat or something." Acornfall assures Addertooth. "I found one around there earlier." He meows.

"Oh okay. It scared me a bit." Addertooth admits.

"Back to the point," Addertooth meows. "I know you don't know, but I want to know what you think it means."

"I think it just has to do with making decisions in general." Acornfall replies. "I think you will struggle with making the right decision, but end up making the wrong one. So, my advice to you is to make sure you think before making decisions and make sure you choose the one that has the best possible outcome." He meows.

"Thank you, Acornfall." Addertooth meows with a respectful nod. "I will keep that in mind from now on."

"You're welcome. If you have any more questions feel free to ask me." Acornfall replies.

"I think I'll head back now. It's never a good idea to sneak out of camp." Addertooth then meows.

"Wait." Hawkstar meows, getting up off the ground. She approaches Addertooth and gives him a soft nuzzle and a lick on the head. "I never got to really appreciate you as my kit. I'm sorry about that. I never get the chance to because I'm always around the clan." She meows. "I love you, Addertooth."

"I love you too Hawkstar." Addertooth replies. "Thank you." He then adds. They then say their goodbyes and Addertooth leaves his secret parents. Suddenly, as he is walking back, he feels something heavy ram into him. The tabby is knocked right over. He then feels himself being pinned to the ground. His eyes widen in terror, afraid to look up at what has pinned him. But, he looks up at the figure anyways. Then, he recognizes the figure.

"Duskstorm?!" Addertooth meows. "What in StarClan are you doing here?!" He asks.

"I saw you sneak out of the warriors' den and then out of camp, so my curiosity decided to follow you." Duskstorm meows. "It's very nice to know your little secrets, special snowflake." She says coldly. "You have a prophecy and your parents are the clan leader and a medicine cat? Wow!" She meows.

"Duskstorm... please.." Addertooth meows. "Let me go." He meows.

"Not until you answer me." Duskstorm replies. "Are you plotting to overthrow my position as deputy?" She asks him.

"What?! No! I wouldn't do that!" Addertooth replies.

"Yeah, sure. We've been rivals since we were very young, but you haven't even though of trying to overthrow me? Why would I believe that?" Duskstorm replies. "I heard from a little birdie that you talked to Hawkstar about getting rid of my position as deputy." She meows.

"No. That's not true." Addertooth lies, trying his best to keep a poker face.

"You're lying, because the cute little birdie has never lied to me." Duskstorm meows. "Now, thanks to you, I'm going to reveal your secrets in front of the entire clan when the sun rises. Hawkstar and Acornfall will be overthrown just like you've been planning to overthrow me. How do you like that?!" She meows.

"Please, don't. I beg you." Addertooth meows.

"Too bad!" Duskstorm replies.

"And Hawkstar is leader. She can't exile herself." Addertooth meows.

"Unless the rest of the clan kicks her out." Duskstorm meows. "Just watch, my friend. Duskstar will be the new leader of ShadowClan in no time!" She meows.

"Not unless you are stopped." Addertooth meows.

"Try me." Duskstorm then meows, releasing Addertooth from her strong pin.

"Goodnight." Duskstorm meows and then heads back to camp.

Oh no... this is absolutely terrible. This is the worst case scenario. What am I supposed to do? Addertooth thinks.

UPDATED ALLEGIANCES

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER Hawkstar— Solid brown she-cat with amber eyes

DEPUTY Duskstorm— Gray she-cat with odd colored eyes

MEDICINE CATS Acornfall— Light brown tabby tom with blue eyes
Cloudheart— White she-cat with blue eyes

WARRIORS Ebonyfrost— Brown-and-white she-cat
Frogleap— Black-and-white tom
Mousetuft— Pale brown she-cat
Flamepelt— Dark ginger tabby tom
Icewhisker— White she-cat
Wolfclaw— Gray tabby she-cat
Swiftfang— Black tom
Fernpool— Black-and-gray she-cat
Applebranch— Ginger tom
Duskstorm— Gray she-cat
Smokefur— Dark gray she-cat
Ashcloud— Gray she-cat with blue eyes
Addertooth— Brown tabby tom with blue eyes
Blacktail— Black tom
Daisybloom— Gray-and-white tabby she-cat
Luckyspirit— Black-and-white tom

QUEENS Smokefur— Dark gray she-cat (mother to Addertooth's kits: Tigerkit (brown tabby tom kit); Moonkit (gray tabby she-kit); and Sparrowkit (brown she-kit))

ELDERS Beetlenose— Black tom

THUNDERCLAN

LEADER Briarstar— Gray tabby tom

DEPUTY Mintleaf— Brown tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT Goldenfeather— Ginger-and-white she-cat

WARRIORS Dappledpelt— Tortoiseshell-and-white she-cat
Finchflight— Gray tom
Oakbranch— Dark cream tom
Paledawn— Cream she-cat
Lionpounce— Ginger tom
Lilypetal— White she-cat
Dewstone— Gray-and-white tabby tom
Thistleseed— Golden-brown tabby she-cat
Sparrowfeather— Brown tom
Rosethorn— Brown-and-white she-cat
Waspclaw— Pale gray tabby tom
Violetmoon— Cream she-cat

QUEENS Russetpelt— Ginger she-cat (mother to Dewstone's kits: Streamkit (Gray tabby she-kit) and Lightningkit (Ginger tom kit))

ELDERS Seedfall— Ginger she-cat
Lakeshine— Silver tabby she-cat
Olivepatch— Black-and-white tom
Owlwing— Gray-and-white she-cat

WINDCLAN

LEADER Mudstar— Brown tom with hazel eyes

DEPUTY Snakefang— Gray tabby tom

MEDICINE CAT Nectarmist— Pale ginger she-cat
APPRENTICE, Berrypaw (gray tabby tom)

WARRIORS Stormwind— Dark gray tom
Weedwhisker— Brown tom
Whitebird— White she-cat

Mistysky— Pale gray she-cat
Dovewhisper— Gray she-cat
Blackpelt— Black tom
Daisystem— Black-and-white she-cat
Sunflame— Ginger tom
Stagdust— Brown tabby tom
Hazelclaw— Tortoiseshell she-cat
Yelloweyes— Black she-cat
APPRENTICE, Breezepaw (Tortoiseshell she-cat)
Rabbitear— Pale brown tom
Quickstep— Gray tabby tom
Ravencall— Black tom
Petalstorm— Tortoiseshell she-cat
Stonefall— Gray tom
Meadowbreeze— Brown she-cat

QUEENS N/A

ELDERS Dawnberry— Brown tabby she-cat

RIVERCLAN

LEADER Otterstar— Brown tom with green eyes

DEPUTY Splashleap— Silver tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT Blueshine— Blueish gray she-cat
Blizzardsnow— White tom

WARRIORS Sweetberry- Tortoiseshell she-cat
Sandfern- Pale ginger tom
Reedstorm- Brown tabby tom
Duskshadow— Black-and-white she-cat
Moonfeather- White she-cat with black splotches
APPRENTICE, Floodpaw (Gray tabby tom)
Cloverbush- Brown tom
APPRENTICE, Shadepaw (Black she-cat)
Minnowfur— Silver tabby she-cat
Darkcloud- Black tom
Puddlesplash— Brown-and-white tom

Shellclaw— Brown she-cat
Doestep— Black-and-white she-cat

QUEENS Primrosefrost— Pale brown tabby she-cat

ELDERS Troutfin— Brown tabby tom
Ripplecreek- Gray tabby tom

SKYCLAN

LEADER Honeystar— Pale brown tabby she-cat with yellow eyes

DEPUTY Foxtail— Golden-brown tom

MEDICINE CAT Littlepoppy— Golden-brown tabby she-cat

WARRIORS Brightflame— Ginger-and-white tom
Twigshade— Black tom
Shrewfur— Brown tom
Birchleaf— Brown-and-white she-cat
Lightningclaw— Dark brown tom
Tawnytuft— Ginger-and-white she-cat
Badgerscar— Black-and-white tom
Eaglefeather— Brown tabby tom
Blossomsnow— Gray-and-white she-cat
Echowhisper— Gray she-cat
Strikeclaw— Black-and-white tom
Robinflight— Dark ginger she-cat
Crowshadow— Black she-cat
Bristlefur— Ginger she-cat

QUEENS Blossomsnow— Gray-and-white she-cat

ELDERS Fallenbranch— Brown tabby tom

Chapter 20

Addertooth sits beside Smokefur, who is nursing their kits.

"Are you okay? It seems like something is bothering you." Smokefur meows with concern.

"Well.. to be honest.. I'm not okay." Addertooth replies, unable to bring himself to lie to his own mate.

"What's wrong, my love?" Smokefur then asks him.

"Well... Duskstorm is really bothering me." Addertooth meows. He isn't lying, but he isn't saying the whole truth.

"What did I say very many times before? Just ignore her. Maybe then she'll stop." Smokefur meows.

"That's what I've been doing, but she hasn't stopped." Addertooth meows. He dreads for the rest of the day to go on, hoping Duskstorm doesn't fulfill her promise to expose Hawkstar and Acornfall. Then, right as he was thinking about it, it happened.

"ShadowClan! Please listen to what I have to say! I have something very important to share!" Addertooth hears Duskstorm announce to the rest of the clan in the middle of camp.

"I'll be right back." Addertooth meows, then leaves the nursery. He walks out and sits down, listening to Duskstorm and hoping for the best. He notices that the rest of the clan is in camp and is ready to hear what Duskstorm has to say.

"There is something that has been hidden from all of us, but thanks to Addertooth, I figured it out." Duskstorm meows. He gets the chills as she looks right at him coldly. "Maybe you should've been more quiet when sneaking out of camp last night." She meows.

Addertooth's heart sinks. The entire clan's eyes are on him. He then looks over at Hawkstar and Acornfall, who seem to be a mixture of shocked, upset, and confused.

"Now what's the secret? Tell us, Duskstorm!" Blacktail meows. The clan then cheers in agreement with Blacktail.

"Okay, okay." Duskstorm responds. "Hawkstar and Acornfall have been mates all of this time, and Addertooth is their kit." She announces. Shocked gasps are heard from the rest of the clan. Addertooth lowers his ears and closes his eyes.

I can't take this. Addertooth thinks.

"Is this true, Hawkstar?" Frogleap asks his leader. Then, all gazes focus on Hawkstar.

Don't tell the truth, Hawkstar. You've lied to your clan times before, you can do it again. Addertooth thinks and hopes.

"It's true. I knew the clan would find out eventually." Hawkstar confirms. Then, the clan gasps again.

"Hawkstar. Don't you think it would be right to remove Acornfall of his medicine cat status for breaking the medicine cat code? Medicine cats aren't allowed to have a mate or kits. You, especially, should've known that." Duskstorm meows, looking at her leader coldly. Hawkstar then shakes her head.

"Love is too powerful to be stopped. I tried and tried to stop myself from loving Acornfall, and he tried and tried to stop himself from loving me, but we couldn't help it." Hawkstar meows. "So, I think it is right for Acornfall to keep his medicine cat position. He is an excellent medicine cat. It is not his fault he broke the medicine cat code. Feelings cannot be stopped." Hawkstar then meows.

Addertooth opens his eyes and watches as Duskstorm's fur stand on her back out of anger.

Oh StarClan. This is going to be a mess. Addertooth thinks.

"Maybe you shouldn't be leader, Hawkstar. You are allowing the

breakage of the medicine cat code. Not just the fact that you two couldn't be mates, but also the fact that Acornfall couldn't have kits!" Duskstorm meows loudly.

"I am the leader. My word is the warrior code." Hawkstar meows, trying her best to seem calm and collected. "No matter what you do, you can't get rid of my position as leader." She meows.

"You are a terrible leader, Hawkstar. No leader should allow the breaking of the medicine cat code or the warrior code." Duskstorm meows coldly.

"And what exactly are you going to do about it, Duskstorm?" Hawkstar meows, challenging her angry deputy.

"Is that a challenge, Hawkstar?" Duskstorm meows.

"Yes it is. Let's settle it like this. If you and maybe some other clanmates can successfully convince the clan that I shouldn't be leader, then I will leave ShadowClan." Hawkstar meows.

"And I will leave with her." Acornfall then adds.

"If not, too bad. I will remain as ShadowClan's leader and you will be exiled for trying to overthrow me. Choose wisely." Hawkstar meows.

Hawkstar! Acornfall! What in StarClan are you two doing?! I had no idea these two could be such mousebrains! That's a stupid agreement. Hawkstar should just exile Duskstorm right now! Addertooth thinks. *I can't believe I am the kit of these two..*

"Challenge accepted." Duskstorm replies, looking at Hawkstar cold in the eyes.

"It will be done before moonhigh." Hawkstar announces.

Addertooth looks at the expressions of his clanmates. They included looks of complete shock and confusion.

This is going to be terrible.. Addertooth thinks.

Chapter 21

It is now time. Addertooth sits impatiently in the darkness of the night.

Don't screw this up, Hawkstar. He thinks, his tail hitting the soft ground multiple times. Then, the moment he hasn't been hoping for finally happened.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Addertooth hears Hawkstar call. Addertooth watches as the rest of ShadowClan begins to gather around the high branch along with him. Every cat seems to have a serious expression. No happiness or fooling around tonight. Then, Hawkstar speaks.

"Duskstorm." She meows.

"Yes, Hawkstar?" Duskstorm replies.

"You may begin to try to convince your clanmates that I shouldn't be leader. Other cats are allowed to help you. If you convince the majority of the clan, Acornfall and I will leave ShadowClan. If my clan is actually loyal and follows the warrior code, they won't agree with you." Hawkstar meows, glaring down at her clanmates. "The warrior code says that the word of the clan leader is the warrior code. I hope none of you have forgotten that." She adds. "You may start."

"Hawkstar. You broke the warrior code and the medicine cat code, yet you are here defending something the warrior code says just because it works in your favor." Duskstorm meows, looking angrily at the leader. "Maybe I wouldn't be so mad if you told the clan the truth from the start instead of lying to your entire clan?!" She hisses. "You're a hypocrite, Hawkstar." She says coldly. "I believe that every part of the warrior code should be followed. The fact that

my own leader that I've looked up to for so long has allowed the breakage of it greatly upsets me." She meows. "So, because of this, Hawkstar, you should no longer be ShadowClan's leader. ShadowClan needs a leader that they can trust. One who is a role model who follows the warrior code completely. We don't need a liar and hypocrite as a leader. I am ashamed, and the rest of ShadowClan should be too." Duskstorm finishes.

I mean... Duskstorm does have a bit of a point, but Hawkstar has an even bigger point. She's the leader. The leader's word is the warrior code, no matter what. Addertooth thinks.

"Now, ShadowClan. Who agrees with Duskstorm?" Hawkstar asks the clan, trying her best to not let what Duskstorm said about her make her visibly angry. She is angry on the inside, for sure.

Addertooth does not say a word, but he watches as many of his clanmates yowl in agreement. He gulps nervously.

I sure hope that isn't the majority of the clan. I do ***not*** *want Duskstorm as my leader. She is cruel and fox-hearted. I'd much rather have a liar and hypocrite leader than a cruel and fox-hearted leader.* Addertooth thinks.

"Wait, who was that? Lift your tail straight up instead." Hawkstar suggests. Addertooth keeps his tail down as he watches to see that a lot of cats have their tail up. This includes cats such as Frogleap, Mousetuft, Flamepelt, Icewhisker, Wolfclaw, Fernpool, Applebranch, Cloudheart, Ashcloud, Luckyspirit, Blacktail, Ivypaw, and Marshpaw.

Oh no. Most of the clan agrees with Duskstorm. I think I'm going to be sick. Addertooth thinks.

"I can't believe you all. You, my clan, has turned your backs on me." Hawkstar meows coldly. "Everyone who lifted your tail, you are all traitors. If you weren't the majority, I would exile all of you right now for betraying me. But, since you are the majority, you will remain ShadowClan cats. However, this was only an experiment, so neither Acornfall or I will really leave the clan. You're stuck with me as your leader for more and more lives." She meows coldly with

a little smirk. "Nice try, Duskstorm." She adds.

Addertooth could sense all of the anger coming from his clanmates. He flattens his ears back and closes his eyes, expecting the worst.

"Hawkstar! You promised!" Duskstorm yowls angrily.

"Too bad. I cannot be stopped." Hawkstar replies.

"You want to bet?!" Duskstorm yowls yet again. Then, by just a flick of Duskstorm's tail, the majority of the clan rushes towards the tree. Addertooth sits and watches in horror as several of his clanmates begin to climb up the tree towards the high branch. He could see the terror in Hawkstar's eyes. The brown-furred leader then leaps off of the high branch and dashes away from her angry clan. Hawkstar's traitors notice this, and they begin to chase after her. Addertooth looks over at Acornfall, who begins to dash off as well once he realizes they are after him too. Addertooth watches as the clan chases the couple out of camp. He sits in camp, terrified. He looks over at the very few other loyal clanmates, who seem to be shocked and terrified as well. He could see Smokefur's head peeking out of the nursery. She seems very terrified and concerned.

"They chased Hawkstar and Acornfall out of camp." Addertooth explains to his mate.

Eventually, the traitors returned back to ShadowClan's camp. Hawkstar and Acornfall no longer in sight. Addertooth looks down at the ground, very upset. His eyes are wide in shock. He doesn't even watch as Duskstorm leaps onto the high branch.

"We have successfully overthrown Hawkstar." Duskstorm meows, pride in her voice. "I, as the deputy of ShadowClan, will become your new leader. Very soon, Cloudheart and I will leave camp so I can get my lives. The amount of lives I receive will depend on how many Hawkstar has left." She explains. "May I ask, what was Hawkstar's warrior name? I will call her that from now on since she is no longer our leader. She was the clan's leader when I was born." She meows.

"Her warrior name was Hawktalon." Ebonyfrost answers.

Of course Ebonyfrost would be the one to answer. They are littermates, afterall. Addertooth thinks.

"Thank you, Ebonyfrost." Duskstorm replies, nodding at the warrior. "I will choose my deputy before the next moonhigh." She meows, looking back at the rest of the clan. "If any of you wish to leave like Hawkstar and Acornfall, you are free to do so." She then mentions.

I would leave... but I love ShadowClan too much to. I can't imagine would it would be like as a loner. I love being a warrior. Also, I have a mate and kits I need to stay here for. Addertooth thinks. *I guess I'll have to deal with Duskstorm as leader for a while. Unless I do something to change that.* He thinks.

Chapter 22

Addertooth sits and waits since Duskstorm should return with her lives soon. The brown tabby tom is trying to act calm on the outside, but deep inside he is furious. A lot of his clanmates have been giving him weird glances now, even Ashcloud. He hates Duskstorm, and he absolutely despised that she is now ShadowClan's leader.

I hope StarClan refuses to make her leader. Addertooth thinks. Then, as if on cue, Duskstorm bursts into camp. Cloudheart then appears beside her, panting.

"You run too fast, Duskstar!" Cloudheart meows. Addertooth freezes at the name 'Duskstar.'

"Welcome back!" "How did it go?" Addertooth hears his clanmates ask but Addertooth doesn't ask a single thing. He just sits there silently, feeling angry and envious. Then, he watches as Duskstar dashes off again and leaps into the high branch.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Addertooth hears Duskstar call. The clan then gathers around the high branch.

"As you have heard, I am your new leader. I hope to lead ShadowClan well." Duskstar meows. "Now, as my duty as the new leader of ShadowClan, I must choose a deputy." She meows. "After a lot of thought, I have decided on who should be ShadowClan's new deputy." She tells the clan. "I say these words before StarClan, so that the spirits of our warrior ancestors may hear and approve of my choice. The new deputy of ShadowClan is Ashcloud. Ashcloud, you are a brave, loyal, and skilled warrior of ShadowClan. You are always a great friend and clanmate, caring a lot about your clan and the warrior code. You are definitely a cat I can trust to be a great leader of ShadowClan if something were to happen to me."

Duskstar explains. The clan congratulates Ashcloud. Ashcloud is very overjoyed.

Addertooth walks over to his littermate. "Congratulations." He meows, proud of her.

"Thank you, Addertooth." Ashcloud meows, purring a little as the two cats touch foreheads.

"The clan meeting is dismissed." Duskstar then meows, leaping off of the high branch. Addertooth's gaze focuses on Duskstar.

The prophecy... is this what it was about? Whether or not to strike... means whether or not to do something about Duskstar? Addertooth thinks. *As in... whether or not to... attack her?* He thinks. *But... should I do it?* He then asks himself, unsheathing his claws. *I don't know... would it be the best thing to do? It is very risky... and against the warrior code. I could get exiled if I'm unsuccessful. I'd hate to be separated from Smokefur and the kits. Oh StarClan, I wish Hawkstar and Acornfall were still here. I wish I could talk to Acornfall about this. I hope they're doing alright. Wait, back on topic. No, I will not attack Duskstar. It is too risky. I guess I'll wait until she actually does something terrible so I'd have a good reason if I get caught. I just wish I could get another cat to do this work for me. Then this would be so much easier. It would be cruel to attack her and kill her right away. It's not what a good cat does. Killing is wrong. I shouldn't do something like that, cruel or not. But, I'm afraid I might not be able to control myself at some point. It's just my anger getting to my head. Why am I like this?*

I'm so sorry for the shorter chapter! There wasn't much listed on the outline for this chapter so it ended up being shorter. I hope you understand!

BONUS: Duskstar's Lives

I think it would be fun to write for Duskstorm's POV for once. Also, more will be revealed about her.

Duskstorm walks towards the moonpool alongside Cloudheart.

"Duskstorm.. do you really think it was necessary to call Hawkstar out like that and chase her out? You have a major point and you had the right to do so, but you should've had more respect to your leader."

"I feel like it was necessary. ShadowClan deserves the best. I am not the best, and there's no such thing as the best, but Hawkstar was not a good leader. The only way that we could've gotten her to give up her position is overthrow her, so that's exactly what we did." Duskstorm replies. "You agreed with me, didn't you though?" She then adds. Cloudheart nods.

"Of course I did. I had a feeling that it is what StarClan wanted." Cloudheart replies. "I know you'll be an amazing leader, Duskstorm. I thought that ever since we were both kits. I always had strong hopes for you." She meows.

"Thank you so much, Cloudheart. I'm glad to have you as our medicine cat." Duskstorm replies. "I have a question though." She then meows as the two cats continued to walk together.

"What is it?" Cloudheart asks, looking up at the larger cat.

"What made you want to become a medicine cat?" Duskstorm asks.

I love having Cloudheart as our medicine cat and she fits the role very well, but I was disappointed when she was chosen to be the medicine cat apprentice. I was hoping we could be warriors together. We would be much closer then. I would've loved to fight alongside the beautiful she-cat that she is. However, I'm happy as long as she is happy. Her happiness is what truly matters. Duskstorm thinks.

"I thought that if I was a medicine cat, I would serve the clan very well. The different herbs interested me and I wanted to do whatever I could to help the hurt and the sick. Also, the whole StarClan thing is amazing." Cloudheart explains. "When Milktail died from greencough when we were all just kits, I saw how upset the clan was, especially you and Smokefur, and wanted to do something to prevent more things like that in the future." She meows.

"I really appreciate that, Cloudheart. You are the sweetest cat I know." Duskstorm then replies with a purr. Then, the two cats arrived at the moonpool.

"Drink from the moonpool and you will be given your lives as the new leader of ShadowClan." The small and fluffy white she-cat explains to Duskstorm. Duskstorm nods and her tongue tastes the cool water of the moonpool. Then, Duskstorm's vision goes black. She awakes in StarClan. She watches as two StarClan cats approach her.

Only two lives? Okay then... Duskstorm thinks. *Then Hawktalon has seven.* She thinks. She then recognizes the two cats. She is filled with a sudden wave of joy. *Hawktalon didn't retire then. Bummer. She's out there as a loner with seven lives.*

"Milktail! Pineshade!" Duskstorm meows excitedly, dashing towards them. She is overwhelmed with joy as she touches foreheads with Milktail. The beautiful cream-and-white she-cat then leans down and licks her kit's chest fur.

"I've missed you so much. I'm so proud of you, my beautiful kit." Milktail meows. Duskstorm then looks over at Pineshade and presses her forehead against his.

"I never got to say goodbye.." Duskstorm meows, sadness starting to take over.

"It's okay.. but we should go ahead and get this over with. We don't want to take up too much time. This is a leader ceremony, not a reunion." Pineshade meows. Duskstorm purrs a bit as Pineshade touches his nose to the top of her head.

"With this life, I give you sympathy and understanding. Use it well to deeply care for and emphasize with your clan." Pineshade meows. Then, Milktail touches her nose to the top of Duskstorm's head.

"With this life, I give you mother's love. Use it well to care for your clan as if they were your kits." Milktail meows. This makes Duskstorm purr a little. Then, she backs away.

Suddenly, an unfamiliar StarClan cat appears.

"Who are you?" Duskstorm takes the chance to ask.

"I am Boulderstar. I was ShadowClan's leader before Hawkstar." The large gray tom meows. "Since Hawkstar is not here with us yet, I will be doing this in her place." He explains. "Duskstorm, I hail you by your new name, Duskstar. Your old life is no more. You have now received the nine lives of a leader, and StarClan grants you the guardianship of ShadowClan. Defend it well; care for young and old; honor your ancestors and the traditions of the warrior code; live each life with pride and dignity." He meows.

"Thank you so much, Boulderstar. It is a pleasure and an honor meet you." Duskstar meows, nodding her head at the former leader. Then, the three cats begin to cheer her new name.

"Duskstar! Duskstar! Duskstar!" They cheer. Duskstar couldn't feel prouder. Then, her vision of StarClan fades away as she awakens where she was next to the moonpool.

"Are you ready to head back, Duskstar?" Cloudheart asks her leader.

"Yep." Duskstar replies, standing up and stretching. Then, the two cats walk back to ShadowClan's camp together side-by-side. Once they get really close to camp, Duskstar dashes off towards camp excitedly, leaving Cloudheart to walk.

"I love you, Duskstar." Cloudheart whispers to herself. "Hey, wait for me!" She then meows loudly, chasing after her leader.

UPDATED ALLEGIANCES

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER Duskstar— Gray she-cat with oddly purple eyes

DEPUTY Ashcloud— Gray she-cat with blue eyes

MEDICINE CAT Cloudheart— White she-cat with blue eyes

WARRIORS Ebonyfrost— Brown-and-white she-cat
Frogleap— Black-and-white tom
Mousetuft— Pale brown she-cat
Flamepelt— Dark ginger tabby tom
Icewhisker— White she-cat
Wolfclaw— Gray tabby she-cat
APPRENTICE, Ivypaw (ginger she-cat)
Swiftfang— Black tom
Fernpool— Black-and-gray she-cat
APPRENTICE, Marshpaw (gray tom)
Applebranch— Ginger tom
Addertooth— Brown tabby tom with blue eyes
Blacktail— Black tom
Daisybloom— Gray-and-white tabby she-cat
Luckyspirit— Black-and-white tom

QUEENS Smokefur— Dark gray she-cat (mother to Addertooth's kits: Tigerkit (brown tabby tom kit); Moonkit (gray tabby she-kit); and Sparrowkit (brown she-kit))

ELDERS Beetlenose— Black tom

THUNDERCLAN

LEADER Briarstar— Gray tabby tom

DEPUTY Mintleaf— Brown tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT Goldenfeather— Ginger-and-white she-cat

WARRIORS Dappledpelt— Tortoiseshell-and-white she-cat
Finchflight— Gray tom
Oakbranch— Dark cream tom
Paledawn— Cream she-cat
Lionpounce— Ginger tom
Lilypetal— White she-cat
Dewstone— Gray-and-white tabby tom
Thistleseed— Golden-brown tabby she-cat
Sparrowfeather— Brown tom
Rosethorn— Brown-and-white she-cat
Waspclaw— Pale gray tabby tom
Violetmoon— Cream she-cat

QUEENS Russetpelt— Ginger she-cat (mother to Dewstone's kits: Streamkit (Gray tabby she-kit) and Lightningkit (Ginger tom kit))

ELDERS Seedfall— Ginger she-cat
Lakeshine— Silver tabby she-cat
Owlwing— Gray-and-white she-cat

WINDCLAN

LEADER Mudstar— Brown tom with hazel eyes

DEPUTY Snakefang— Gray tabby tom

MEDICINE CAT Nectarmist— Pale ginger she-cat
APPRENTICE, Berrypaw (gray tabby tom)

WARRIORS Stormwind— Dark gray tom
Weedwhisker— Brown tom
Whitebird— White she-cat
Mistysky— Pale gray she-cat
Dovewhisper— Gray she-cat
Blackpelt— Black tom

Daisystem— Black-and-white she-cat
Sunflame— Ginger tom
Stagdust— Brown tabby tom
Hazelclaw— Tortoiseshell she-cat
Yelloweyes— Black she-cat
APPRENTICE, Breezepaw (Tortoiseshell she-cat)
Rabbitear— Pale brown tom
Quickstep— Gray tabby tom
Ravencall— Black tom
Petalstorm— Tortoiseshell she-cat
Stonefall— Gray tom
Meadowbreeze— Brown she-cat

QUEENS N/A

ELDERS Dawnberry— Brown tabby she-cat

RIVERCLAN

LEADER Otterstar— Brown tom with green eyes

DEPUTY Splashleap— Silver tabby she-cat

MEDICINE CAT Blueshine— Blueish gray she-cat
Blizzardsnow— White tom

WARRIORS Sweetberry- Tortoiseshell she-cat
Sandfern- Pale ginger tom
Reedstorm- Brown tabby tom
Duskshadow— Black-and-white she-cat
Moonfeather- White she-cat with black splotches
APPRENTICE, Floodpaw (Gray tabby tom)
Cloverbush- Brown tom
APPRENTICE, Shadepaw (Black she-cat)
Minnowfur— Silver tabby she-cat
Darkcloud- Black tom
Puddlesplash— Brown-and-white tom
Shellclaw— Brown she-cat
Doestep— Black-and-white she-cat

QUEENS Primrosefrost— Pale brown tabby she-cat

ELDERS Troutfin— Brown tabby tom
Ripplecreek- Gray tabby tom

SKYCLAN

LEADER Honeystar— Pale brown tabby she-cat with yellow eyes

DEPUTY Foxtail— Golden-brown tom

MEDICINE CAT Littlepoppy— Golden-brown tabby she-cat

WARRIORS Brightflame— Ginger-and-white tom
Twigshade— Black tom
Shrewfur— Brown tom
Birchleaf— Brown-and-white she-cat
Lightningclaw— Dark brown tom
Tawnytuft— Ginger-and-white she-cat
Badgerscar— Black-and-white tom
Eaglefeather— Brown tabby tom
Blossomsnow— Gray-and-white she-cat
Echowhisper— Gray she-cat
Strikeclaw— Black-and-white tom
Robinflight— Dark ginger she-cat
Crowshadow— Black she-cat
Bristlefur— Ginger she-cat

QUEENS Blossomsnow— Gray-and-white she-cat

ELDERS Fallenbranch— Brown tabby tom

Chapter 23

Addertooth relaxes in camp, laying down. It is dawn and Addertooth just woke up. His mind is still set on the prophecy and what to do about Duskstar. Ever since what happened, Addertooth has felt isolated. It feels like no one except Smokefur is interested in spending time with him. He doesn't exactly blame them though, they were lied to all of these moons. But, it isn't Addertooth's fault that he was born. So, why are they avoiding him? Addertooth isn't paying attention when he hears Ashcloud's voice.

"Addertooth, lead the dawn patrol. Take Icewhisker, Applebranch, Wolfclaw, and Ivypaw with you." Ashcloud meows, but Addertooth isn't paying any attention. "Addertooth!" Ashcloud meows louder. Then, Addertooth finally looks over at Ashcloud.

"What is it Ashcloud?" Addertooth asks. Ashcloud sighs.

"Lead the dawn patrol. Take Icewhisker, Applebranch, Wolfclaw, and Ivypaw with you." Ashcloud repeats in an annoyed tone.

"Okay, I'm sorry for not listening the first time." Addertooth replies. He then spots Icewhisker, Applebranch, Wolfclaw, and Ivypaw walking towards him. Once they are gathered, Addertooth takes the lead.

"Let's go." Addertooth meows, taking the lead as the five cats exit ShadowClan's camp together.

"We will check our border with RiverClan first, then our border with SkyClan." Addertooth tells the other cats. Then, the patrol runs into something the definitely weren't expecting. Addertooth pauses. He is frozen is place out of complete shock. Wolfclaw yowls due to the horrible sight. Ivypaw hides behind her father, Applebranch. Applebranch's eyes are wide open, looking at the sight in complete fear and confusion.

Right there, laying on the cold ground of the forest floor, is Acornfall's lifeless body. Blood covers the ground, coming from a deep wound in the tom's neck.

"Oh StarClan! Acornfall!" Icewhisker finally speaks.

He's... dead. Acornfall is dead. I can't believe this... Addertooth thinks.

"I-I'm afraid he's with StarClan now." Applebranch then speaks up. Wolfclaw then looks over at Addertooth.

"Take his body to camp so we can give Acornfall a burial and vigil. I'll lead the patrol from here. Please make sure Duskstar knows about this." Wolfclaw meows.

"O-Okay." Addertooth quickly replies. "But... what do you think happened to him?" He takes the chance to ask the other chance.

"It looks like another animal bit his neck. Probably a fox or something. Poor Acornfall, he was a medicine cat so he didn't know how to defend himself.." Icewhisker replies, looking at the former medicine cat's body sadly.

"I think so too." Addertooth gets himself to meow. Then, he walks over to his father's body and drags it by the scruff all the way back to camp.

I'm so sorry this had to happen to you, Acornfall. You didn't deserve all of the bad things that happened to you. Addertooth thinks.

Addertooth eventually reaches camp. Gasps from his clanmates are heard when he enters. A lot of his clanmates begin to talk, asking him many questions at once. Addertooth is unable to answer all of the at once, so he looks around, not knowing what to do. Then, Duskstar speaks up.

"Silence!" Duskstar yowls. Then, the clan goes completely silence. "What happened, Addertooth?" She then asks her former rival.

"W-We were heading towards the RiverClan border, but then we found Acornfall's body." Addertooth meows, his voice still shaky from the shock. "We think he was probably killed by another

animal. I brought his body back to camp and Wolfclaw is now leading the dawn patrol. We thought we should bring his body back so we could bury him and have vigil." He explains.

"Thank you, Addertooth. ShadowClan is deeply saddened by the death of our former medicine cat. We may have chased him out, but we are still grateful for everything he has done for the clan during his moons as a medicine cat. He was a very kind and warm-hearted cat. He cared very deeply for the well-being of ShadowClan. We will bury him since he still was a ShadowClan cat, but there will be no vigil held since he is no longer a part of ShadowClan." Duskstar meows to her clan.

"What! There should still be a vigil! There are still cats like myself and Cloudheart who were very close to him!" Addertooth protests. Duskstar flicks her tail.

"He is not a ShadowClan cat anymore. So, he should not have a clan vigil. But, we will still bury him like we would to any other ShadowClan cat." Duskstar repeats. Addertooth sighs, knowing that there is no way to win this argument.

That night, Acornfall was properly buried. The clan was still very sad even though he was no longer a ShadowClan cat. Even though there was no proper vigil, Addertooth stayed up all night as if there was one.

I'll just hold vigil myself. Addertooth had thought. So, he stayed up as a way to respect Acornfall and peacefully protest against Duskstar.

I miss you so much, Acornfall. I'll make you proud, I promise. I'll go find Hawkstar.

Future Plans

Hello everyone! Cottonfur here! I just want to say, thank you so much to everyone who has been reading this story. It has been a wonderful ride. We have 8 more shorter chapters and an epilogue still to cover.

Some of you may be wondering what I'm going to do next. So, that's the purpose of this.

Addertooth's Story is not a part of the main story. It is simply a "super edition" to give backstory on a character. It is, however, setting up the main story.

The future stories will take place after Addertooth's Story. Addertooth's Story is basically the Bluestar's Prophecy of my stories.

Yes, ShadowClan will be the main focus. ShadowClan will always be my favorite clan no matter all of the stupid things the clan is doing in the books.

New characters, new plot, new stories.

Look forward to it!

Chapter 24

Addertooth sits and waits as Ivypaw and Marshpaw complete their warrior assessment. Addertooth thinks they are still too young to become warriors, but their mentors believe they're ready and Duskstar accepted, so they're taking the assessment. Not long after, Addertooth spots the two apprentices dash back into camp with Fernpool, Wolfclaw, and Duskstar not far behind them. This is Duskstar's first time doing a warrior assessment. Addertooth watches as his own leader who he despises leaps onto the high branch.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Duskstar calls out. The clan then gathers beneath the high branch.

"Today, young Ivypaw and Marshpaw have passed their warrior assessments." Duskstar announces. Addertooth feels some pride for his littermate's kits.

"They will now become warriors of ShadowClan." Duskstar announces. "Ivypaw, please come forward." She says. Then, Ivypaw does what she is told.

"I, Duskstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend her to you as a warrior in her turn." Duskstar meows. She then looks down at Ivypaw.

"Ivypaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Ivypaw then responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name.

Ivypaw, from this moment on you will be known as Ivyleaf. StarClan honors your determination and skill, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Duskstar meows.

The clan begins to cheer Ivypaw's warrior name. "Ivyleaf! Ivyleaf!" They cheer.

"Thank you so much, Duskstar." Ivyleaf meows steps back to where she was.

"Now, Marshpaw, please come forward." Duskstar meows. He does what he is told.

"I, Duskstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn." Duskstar meows. She looks down at Marshpaw.

"Marshpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" She meows.

"I do." Marshpaw responds.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Marshpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Marshshade. StarClan honors your strength and kindness and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan." Duskstar meows.

The clan then cheers Marshpaw's new name. "Marshshade! Marshshade!" They cheer.

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Duskstar meows, hopping down from the high branch. Addertooth walks over to the two young newly named warriors.

"Congratulations." Addertooth meows to them.

"Thank you, Addertooth!" Ivyleaf meows happily.

"Yeah, thank you!" Marshshade then meows. Addertooth then nods and walks off. He keeps on walking and eventually exits

ShadowClan's camp.

I need to find Hawkstar. I need to know what happened. I hope she's okay. Addertooth thinks as he continues to walk, keeping his eyes open for any sign of the former leader. Then, right when Addertooth arrives to the place where Acornfall's body was found, he spots Hawkstar. She is sitting down where Acornfall's body was. She seems to be filled with grief.

Poor Hawkstar seems terribly sad. I mean, I don't blame her. She lost the clan that she loved so much as well as her mate. Addertooth thinks.

"Hawkstar!" Addertooth then meows, trying to get her attention as he walks over to her. Hawkstar looks over at him. Addertooth notices that Hawkstar's mood lights up a little once she spots him.

"Addertooth. How are you? Have you seen Acornfall's body?" Hawkstar then meows, asking two questions at the same time. "By the way, don't call me Hawkstar anymore. Call me Hawktalon, my warrior name." She adds.

"I'm alright... I guess. I feel pretty isolated in ShadowClan, but I'm fine other than that. Also, a border patrol found his body and we gave him a proper burial." Addertooth answers.

"Okay, that's good then. I'm glad he had a proper burial. That's what he deserved. He was such a great cat. He would give and expect nothing in return." Hawktalon meows.

"By the way, what happened exactly? Were you there?" Addertooth then asks his mother. Hawktalon nods.

"I was there. Acornfall and I decided to come here to hunt at night since the clan was sleeping. I also decided that I would teach Acornfall how to properly hunt while we did so." Hawktalon explains. "But then, we were ambushed by Duskstar. She killed Acornfall easily since he didn't really know how to fight, but I gave her a good fight. Each of us lost a life. I have six now." She meows.

Addertooth is disappointed, but not really surprised. *Duskstar... I should've known she was behind this.* He thinks.

"That's it, I should strike." Addertooth then meows, feeling hot with anger.

"What do you mean by that exactly?" Hawktalon then asks.

"I'll tell you the next time I come and see you." Addertooth replies. "Goodbye." He meows.

"Goodbye. Whatever you're going to do, good luck." Hawktalon meows.

"Thank you." Addertooth replies, walking back to camp.

Chapter 25

I'm sorry for the very short chapter, but it is a very important one.

It is now nighttime. The rest of the clan is sleeping, but Addertooth isn't. He finally decided. He should strike. Addertooth gets up out of his nest and quietly sneaks out of the warrior den, heading towards the leader den. His eyes are focused on the entrance of the den and he is trying his best to not make a single sound as he begins to enter. Then, he spots Duskstar.

Duskstar is peacefully sleeping in her nest. Probably having a good dream. She has absolutely no idea what's about to happen. She will be surprised and defenseless. A perfect opportunity. Addertooth thinks. Then, he silently leaps for Duskstar with unsheathed claws. The weight of Addertooth on top of her wakes Duskstar up. She is totally surprised, but she figures out what is happening and fights back. She throws the weaker cat off of her successfully. He hits the ground with a small thud. Addertooth gets right back up quickly and leaps for Duskstar again, aiming for the she-cat's neck. Duskstar is too shocked to react quickly, which leads to her neck being in Addertooth's jaws. Then, Addertooth bites very hard, letting all of his anger out with his bite. Then, Duskstar's body goes completely limp and Addertooth gently drops the her body.

I did it. I was successful. I killed Duskstar. No cat heard us either and there isn't a bloody mess. There is no evidence. Addertooth thinks. He feels pride take over himself. *I finally won.* He thinks. *Who's the weak one now, Duskstar?* Addertooth then grabs Duskstar's dead body by the scruff and drags her body out of the leader's den. He then successfully sneaks out of camp without being caught, dragging Duskstar's dead body along. Addertooth then leaves Duskstar's body in the clearing where they used to train as apprentices, making it

seem like another animal killed Duskstar.

"I hope you enjoy your time in the Dark Forest, Duskstar." Addertooth meows silently. He has been told stories about the Dark Forest from the elders as a kit. Apparently it is where all of the evil clan cats go when they die. He was told about how the Dark Forest came and attacked the living clans many moons ago and StarClan came and helped the clans. Addertooth then walks back to camp. He sneaks back into camp and walks back into the warriors den, falling asleep after curling back up in his nest.

Chapter 26

It is the next morning. Addertooth exits the warriors den. It is a dark, cloudy day. He stretches and then walks out into the camp.

"Addertooth!" Ashcloud meows, walking over to him. "Have you seen Duskstar?" She asks. Addertooth shakes his head.

"I just woke up." Addertooth replies to his littermate.

"Oh, okay. She's not in camp and it's quite worrying." Ashcloud meows.

Oh, how little do you know. Addertooth thinks.

"Oh... I hope we can find her soon. She probably just went for a walk out of camp or something." Addertooth meows.

"I hope so." Ashcloud replies. "I already sent out the dawn patrol to not only check the borders, but also to search for Duskstar." She meows.

"Okay. I hope they find her." Addertooth replies.

"I hope so too." Ashcloud replies, walking off. Addertooth then sits and waits for the moment he has been waiting for since he woke up happens. Then, it finally does. The dawn patrol walks through the entrance of ShadowClan's camp, their eyes wide in terror. Addertooth takes note of the cats who are on the patrol.

Swiftfang, Blacktail, Daisybloom, and Ebonyfrost. Addertooth repeats in his head. They are carrying Duskstar's dead body. She has deep bite wound in her neck. The clan gasps and a few yowls of terror break out. Addertooth looks over at Ashcloud. Ashcloud's eyes are wide and she is frozen in place. She just lost her best friend. Addertooth can't help but feel some terrible guilt. He watches as

they carry her body over to the middle of camp. The clan surrounds their deceased leader and grieves over her. Addertooth decides that he should pretend to grieve, but in reality, he's the reason she's dead. Addertooth feels a terrible pang of guilt once he sees the sweet and little Cloudheart grieving hard over her leader. He watches as the medicine cat then begins to inspect the body. He is suddenly hit with nervousness.

"It seems like she was killed by another cat." Cloudheart then meows.

"What?! Who would it be?" Addertooth hears Ebonyfrost asks.

"Hawktalon!" Addertooth then hears Darktail claim. "We all know she's out and about. She must hate Duskstar for kicking her out, right? So, what must've happened is that Duskstar was outside of camp last night, but then she was ambushed by Hawktalon and she brutally murdered her out of revenge and hatred!" The black tom claims. Most of the clan cheers in agreement. Addertooth stays completely silent. He notices that Ebonyfrost is silent too.

She probably doesn't believe that her littermate would kill Duskstar. Addertooth thinks.

"ShadowClan, listen to me." Ashcloud then speaks up. Everyone looks at her to listen to what she has to say.

"Before I go to get my lives, a group of cats will go search for Hawktalon. Once she is found, we must first try to get her to retire and leave the lake for good since she still has her lives and we don't want her to hurt any more cats. If she refuses, then we should attack her until she surrenders. As the warrior code says, we should not try to kill her. Clan cats do not fight to kill." Ashcloud explains. "Does that sound like a good plan?" She asks her clan. The rest of the clan cheers in agreement.

"Alright then. That will be done later today." Ashcloud meows.

I hope this turns out okay. I hate that Hawktalon is being blamed for this when it was I who killed her. But, I probably shouldn't reveal the truth because I could get exiled. Should I share the truth with Smokefur?

I have all of my trust in her. Addertooth thinks. *But... Duskstar was her littermate. They were close ever since birth. I don't know what to do. I think I should just keep it to myself.*

Chapter 27

"Frogleap, Icewhisker, Flamepelt, Applebranch, Addertooth, Blacktail, And Luckyspirit, come with me to search for Hawktalon." Ashcloud announces to the clan. Addertooth is surprised she chose him because he is Hawktalon's kit, but he is glad he was chosen so he can prevent anything really bad happening to Hawktalon if they find her. All of the cats chosen, including Addertooth, gather around Ashcloud.

"Let's go." Ashcloud meows, beginning to walk. The rest of the cats walk behind her. They then exit ShadowClan's camp, walking in almost complete silence. Then, Blacktail speaks up.

"If Hawktalon refuses to retire and go away, I'll tear her to shreds. She killed my leader, mentor, and best friend. If she gets anywhere near me, she will pay." Blacktail meows angrily, the fur on his back bristling.

"Calm down, Blacktail. Violence isn't necessary." Ashcloud meows. "We're all mad at her for killing Duskstar, but we should not try to badly injure her or even kill her." She tells the young warrior. Blacktail sighs and nods.

"It's an honor to be chosen for this, Ashcloud. I think this is exciting." Luckyspirit then meows.

"I'm glad you feel that way, Luckyspirit." Ashcloud replies, purring a little.

"I have a question. Why was *Addertooth* chosen for this. He's Hawktalon's kit!" Blacktail meows loudly as if Addertooth wasn't right there with him.

"That's exactly why I chose him." Ashcloud replies. "I know that he will do what's best for her. Even though she killed Duskstar,

Addertooth must still love and respect her." She meows as they continued to walk, keeping their eyes open for any sign of Hawktalon.

At least Ashcloud still has some sense in her. Addertooth thinks. Then, the entire patrol had to be stuck with Ashcloud and Applebranch acting all romantic with each other.

"How are you feeling?" Applebranch asks Ashcloud, their pelts touching as they walked side-by-side. "I know this must be stressing you." He meows.

"It is, but I'm fine." Ashcloud replies. "Thank you for checking up on me." She meows sweetly, licking the back of his head.

I wish I had more time with Smokefur. I've been so focused on Duskstar, Hawktalon, and my warrior duties that I haven't really focused on her and the kits. I feel like a terrible mate right now. Addertooth thinks.

Soon, the cats arrived at the small thunderpath, which is the border with RiverClan.

"Let's go back." Ashcloud then meows. They haven't seen a sign of her yet. But, then, Addertooth spots something that catches his eye.

"Wait. I see something." Addertooth then meows, taking a closer look at the thunderpath. Then, he released what it was. He can't believe his eyes.

"It's Hawktalon..." Addertooth meows. There on the thunderpath is Hawktalon's completely dead body. It is covered in blood and it seems to have been hit by a monster multiple times, meaning she had lost all of her lives. There are buzzards surrounding her body.

"Oh no.." Ashcloud meows. "Poor Hawktalon.." She meows. "Do you think... she wanted to die?" She asks Addertooth.

"That's what it seems like... no one would allow themselves to be hit by a monster many times unless they were letting it happen." Addertooth replies, a sad tone in his voice.

"Well, that was anticlimactic. Let's go back to camp." Blacktail then

meows.

"Yeah, let's go and report the news to the rest of the clan." Ashcloud meows. "Then, Cloudheart and I will go to the moonpool to get my nine lives. Finally, before moonhigh, I will choose my deputy." She adds. Then, the cats walk back to camp together, not daring to cross the thunderpath to retrieve their former leader's crushed body.

Chapter 28

Addertooth sits and waits for Ashcloud and Cloudheart to return from the moonpool. Many clanmates are waiting as well. Unlike Duskstar who only had two lives, Ashcloud will have the full nine lives of a clan leader. Her and Cloudheart should be back very soon. It won't be very long until it is moonhigh. Then, he spots Ashcloud and Cloudheart walking through the entrance of the camp.

"So, how did it go?" Addertooth quickly asks when they walk through.

"It went well, thanks for asking." Ashcloud replies. He then watches as his littermate dashes towards the high branch and leaps onto it. ""Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Addertooth hears Ashcloud call. The clan then gathers around the high branch.

"I, Ashstar, have been granted the nine lives of a clan leader and I am officially the leader of ShadowClan. I hope to lead the clan well." Ashstar announces. "Now, as my duty as the new leader of ShadowClan, I must choose a deputy before moonhigh. I was worried I wouldn't make it back in time, but I'm glad I did." She meows. "I have decided on who should be ShadowClan's new deputy." She tells the clan. "I say these words before StarClan, so that the spirits of our warrior ancestors may hear and approve of my choice. The new deputy of ShadowClan is Swiftfang. Swiftfang, you are a strong, loyal, kind, smart, and skilled warrior of ShadowClan. You always watch over ShadowClan and you would fit the role of ShadowClan's deputy. You are definitely a cat I can trust to be a great leader of ShadowClan if something were to happen to me." Ashstar explains. The clan congratulates Swiftfang. Addertooth is proud of his former mentor, but he is disappointed he wasn't chosen.

I had some hope that Ashstar would choose me as her deputy. I'm her

littermate afterall, and we are very close. I have always done what was best for the clan. So why didn't she choose me? Addertooth thinks. *I have to figure that out.*

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Ashstar meows, hopping down from the high branch. Addertooth then approaches Ashstar.

"May I speak to you?" Addertooth asks the gray she-cat.

"Of course. Let's go into my den." Ashstar replies. The two cats then walk into the leader's den together.

This place gives me terrible memories of something I probably should not have done. Addertooth thinks.

"What is it, Addertooth?" Ashcloud asks him.

"I'm only wondering but... why didn't you choose me to be your deputy? As kits, me, you, and Marshpaw would always talk about choosing each other if one of us became leader." Addertooth meows.

"The reason why I didn't choose you to be my deputy is that you kept the secret about being Hawkstar and Acornfall's kit from me. If you told me, I would've kept the secret. But, you didn't trust me to keep it. If you don't trust me as your littermate, then I wouldn't trust you to be my deputy." Ashstar explains.

I'm such a mouse-brain... I guess Duskstar was right all along about this. Addertooth thinks.

"Thank you, Ashstar. Congratulations. I'm very proud of you." Addertooth meows.

"Thank you." Ashstar replies. Then, Addertooth exits the leader's den and heads towards the nursery. He walks inside and spots Smokefur laying in her nest with their small kits near her belly. Their eyes opened the day before, but he had missed it because he was on the Hawktalon search patrol. He visited them around dawn this day though and got to see their beautiful eyes. They all either had Addertooth's blue eyes or Smokefur's green eyes. Addertooth thinks they're all very beautiful and that they will definitely become

strong warriors. But, right now, the kits are asleep, and Smokefur seems like she's about to fall asleep. He could hear her purring, which makes him start to purr too.

"How are you and the kits?" Addertooth asks Smokefur in a whisper.

"Great, thank you." Smokefur whispers back. Then, Addertooth lies down next to Smokefur, sharing the nest. Addertooth licks Smokefur's ear and then looks down at the sleeping kits as the two cats purr.

"Sometimes I wonder if living is worth it anymore, but seeing you and the kits makes me completely sure that it is worth it." Addertooth whispers.

Chapter 29

It has been a few moons since Ashstar became leader of ShadowClan. She has been a really great leader so far, which makes Addertooth feel proud of her.

Addertooth has been using these stress-free moons without Duskstar in his life to spend more time with Smokefur and their kits. He has played with them a lot, which makes Addertooth very happy. He wants to make sure he is an important cat in his kits' lives.

Addertooth looks down at his three kits, a moss ball near his paws. His kits are looking up at him, waiting for him to hit the moss ball with his paw.

"Are you ready?" Addertooth asks.

"Yeah!" The kits say in unison.

"Now... go!" Addertooth meows, hitting the moss ball in the other direction. He watches the kits chase after it, trying to be first to it. Tigerkit gets to the moss ball first, beating his sisters. He then hits it with his paw, and it goes in another direction. The three kit chase after it again but this time, Tigerkit and Sparrowkit got to the ball at the same time.

"I was here first!" Tigerkit meows, trying to hit the moss ball.

"No, I was!" Sparrowkit replies, also trying to hit the moss ball. Then, Moonkit dashes in between the two as they argue over who gets to hit the moss ball and takes the opportunity to hit the moss ball herself.

"Hey! Moonkit!" Sparrowkit and Tigerkit meow in unison. This makes Addertooth and Smokefur purr in amusement. Moonkit purrs in amusement as well.

"Sparrowkit only beat me because she's tiny!" Moonkit meows. "And Tigerkit only beat me because he had a head start!" She meows. "So, I deserved to hit it!"

Addertooth has been enjoying watching his kits' personalities develop as they have been getting older. Tigerkit is a kind-hearted kit, but he is very confident and competitive. He wants to be the best he can be and he believes in his ability to become a strong warrior someday. He kind of reminds Addertooth of himself when he was a kit. Moonkit is also a very kind kit, but she likes to tease and mess with her littermates sometimes. She means no harm though. She just enjoys their reactions. Sparrowkit is very kind as well, but she is very small, shy, and not very smart. Addertooth isn't surprised that he and Smokefur had very kind-hearted kits since they are both kind-hearted themselves. However, today is the day these three beautiful kits become apprentices. Addertooth is excited and he is very proud of his kits. He can't want to see them become strong warriors and maybe have kits of their own if they want to.

They've grown up so fast. Addertooth thinks.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the high branch for a meeting!" Addertooth hears Ashstar call. Addertooth looks over at his kits who are still playing.

"Go inside the nursery with Smokefur. You will walk out when Smokefur tells you to, okay?" Addertooth meows. The three kits obey and dash into the nursery. Smokefur walks in after them. Addertooth walks over and gathers with the rest of his clan.

"Today, three young kits have reached the age of six moons and are ready to become apprentices." Ashstar announces to the clan.

Addertooth watches as the three kits excitedly walk out of the nursery and over to where the clan is gathered. Addertooth can't help but purr. Smokefur follows behind them, sitting down with the kits along with the other cats. Addertooth can't help but feel overwhelmed with pride.

"Tigerkit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your

warrior name, you will be known as Tigerpaw. Your mentor will be Icewhisker. I hope Icewhisker will pass down all she knows on to you." Ashstar says. "Icewhisker, you are finally ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training and you have shown yourself to be a skilled and loyal warrior. You will be the mentor of Tigerpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to him." Ashstar announces.

Tigerpaw walks over to Icewhisker and the two cats touch noses.

The clan cheers. "Tigerpaw! Tigerpaw"

"Moonkit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is also time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Moonpaw. Your mentor will be Applebranch. I hope Applebranch will pass down all he knows on to you." Ashstar says. "Applebranch, you are ready to take on your first apprentice. You have received excellent training from Frogleap, and you have shown yourself to be a skilled and strong warrior. You will be the mentor of Moonpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to her."

Addertooth watches as Moonpaw walks over to Applebranch. They touch noses and the clan cheers. "Moonpaw! Moonpaw!"

"Finally, Sparrowkit, you have also reached the age of six moons, and it is also time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Sparrowpaw. Your mentor will be Flamepelt. I hope Flamepelt will pass down all he knows on to you." Ashstar says. "Flamepelt, you are ready to take on another apprentice. You have received excellent training and you have shown yourself to be a loyal and clever warrior. You will be the mentor of Sparrowpaw, and I expect you to pass on all you know to her."

Addertooth watches as Sparrowpaw walks over to Flamepelt. They touch noses and the clan cheers. "Sparrowpaw! Sparrowpaw!"

"The clan meeting is now dismissed." Ashstar then meows, coming down from the high branch. Addertooth watches his kits talk with his mentors, purring out of pride and love for his kits. Then, he

spots something that has caught his eye. He watches as Daisybloom and Marshshade groom each other and intertwine their tails.

Are they mates now? They have been very close recently. Addertooth thinks. *If so, I'm proud of them. Daisybloom is such a great cat and so is Marshshade. If they decide to have kits, their kits would be amazing warriors, I'm sure of it.* Addertooth thinks as he watches the two cats. Then, he looks back over at his kits as they leave camp with their mentors.

My life hasn't been this good since I was a kit. Addertooth thinks.

Chapter 30

Addertooth sits in ShadowClan's camp, enjoying the warmth from the sun. All of a sudden, a hunting patrol returns back to camp early. Their eyes are filled with terror.

"There's a group of large, strong badgers... and they're headed for camp!" Ebonyfrost yowls, her horror could be heard in her voice.

"ShadowClan!" Addertooth hears Ashstar call out. "Be prepared to fight off these badgers!" She meows.

Addertooth gets up and heads towards the entrance of the camp, ready to fight with all of his might. No one messes with his clan. He remembers the dog attack from many moons ago, where Pineshade was killed. Suddenly, the badgers broke into camp. Addertooth begins to fight them almost instantly and every clan cat capable to joins in. Addertooth leaps for one of the badgers, shoving it to the ground with the force of his leap. He bites into the badger's shoulder, which makes it wail. He purrs proudly as the badger then flees from the scene.

Addertooth looks around at the rest of the camp. The clan seems to be in big trouble. These badgers are very strong and there are very many of them. Suddenly, because he wasn't paying attention, a badger slams into him, knocking him down to the ground. The badger pins Addertooth down to the ground. This is an incredibly large badger, probably the largest out of all of them. Addertooth tries to shove the badger off of him, but he badger is too strong. Addertooth yowls in pain as the badger bites into his neck. He continues to try to shove the badger off of him but it is no use. Addertooth's vision begins to fade away as everything goes back.

Suddenly, Addertooth opens his eyes again. But, he isn't in ShadowClan's camp anymore. He is confused about what exactly happened, so he looks around. The area is very beautiful.

Am I... in StarClan? Addertooth thinks.

"Welcome to StarClan, Addertooth." He hears a very familiar voice say. He looks over and spots a cat he was hoping to see.

"Hawkstar!" Addertooth meows happily, dashing over to her. Hawkstar purrs as Addertooth approaches her. Addertooth begins to purr as well as the two cats touch noses.

"It's nice to see you again." Addertooth hears Acornfall meows as he walks over to the other two cats.

"Acornfall!" Addertooth meows happily, greeting the former medicine cat by resting his chin on the tom's back as the two face each other.

"I'm proud of you." Addertooth hears a voice he hasn't heard in a very long time meow. He is very emotional right now.

"M-Marshpaw?!" Addertooth meows, looking over at the source of the voice.

"Yep, it's me." Marshpaw meows. "You wanna know something amazing? I got a lot of StarClan cats to call me Marshstar! They are all my close friends now. A good judgement of character is whether or not a cat goes along with it." He meows, not even stopping to breathe while talking. Addertooth purrs in amusement.

"I missed you so much, Marshstar." Addertooth meows happily.

"You were my best friend and now I know that you always will be." Marshpaw meows, purring a bit. "Oh, by the way..." He then says. "Hey, Ivycloud! Addertooth is here!" He meows. Addertooth is filled with joy as he watches the cat who took him in dash towards the cats. Once Ivycloud reaches Addertooth, she licks his fur many times before stopping and looking at him in the eyes.

"Welcome to StarClan." Ivycloud says sweetly, purring at the sight of her foster kit.

"Thank you, I missed you so much.." Addertooth meows.

"Addertooth." Hawkstar then meows.

"What is it, Hawkstar?" Addertooth asks.

"Don't take this the wrong way but.. you were almost sent to the Dark Forest. However, there were many cats in StarClan that defended you. So, here you are. Don't worry, the same thing happened to me." Hawkstar meows.

"I understand why it would happened to me, but why you?" Addertooth asks Hawkstar.

"I guess it had to do with my terrible decisions and lying to you." Hawkstar meows.

"Wait, you lied to me? When?" Addertooth asks, very confused.

"Duskstar never attacked us and she did not kill Acornfall." Hawkstar explains.

"What?! That was the final straw that led to me killing her!" Addertooth replies.

"That was what I planned for you to do with that information." Hawkstar replies. "I lied to you so you would kill Duskstar." She meows. "I assume that's why I was almost in the Dark Forest. Breaking the warrior code probably has to do with it too." She meows. "Speaking of Duskstar, she's here too. She was almost in the Dark Forest as well."

Fantastic. I was hoping she was in the Dark Forest. Addertooth thinks. *I know why she was almost in the Dark Forest then. Her mentorship to Blacktail and her big reveal of Hawkstar's secret and chasing her and Acornfall out.* He thinks.

"In fact, she's been really wanting to speak with you." Hawkstar meows. "The three of us did this same thing together, but now she wants to do it with you." She adds.

Oh StarClan please no. Addertooth thinks. He then watches as Duskstar approaches him. He doesn't say a word and just stares at her.

"Addertooth, I'm terribly sorry for everything that I've done. After learning everything when I joined StarClan, I felt terrible. I guess you really aren't that bad as I thought you were. You're actually a good cat with good intentions. I shouldn't have tried so hard to always be better than you, mentored Blacktail in a terrible way, revealed the secret in front of the entire clan, and got the clan to chase Hawkstar and Acornfall out." Duskstar meows. Addertooth sighs.

"I'm also sorry for always trying to be better than you and... well... killing you." Addertooth meows.

"Are we good?" Duskstar then asks.

"We're good." Addertooth replies.

Duskstar doesn't seem to be really that bad at all. I think I just was too suspicious of her. We both misunderstood each other, which led to terrible things for the both of us. Addertooth thinks.

"Yay! All of the cats are happy now!" Marshpaw then cheers.

Yeah, I'm happy. But... I wish I was still alive. I'm going to miss Smokefur, Tigerpaw, Moonpaw, and Sparrowpaw so much. I hope they're okay. Addertooth thinks.

Aaand that's the end! I hope you enjoyed this ride of a book! Keep your eyes open for my new book!

Also,
This is not what the new book is on. I'm just wondering but, if I were to make another story like this but for a different character, who would you want it to be? This can be a prequel thing too. Addertooth's Story was written to give backstory to the main book which I will start very soon, and Addertooth was the perfect character to focus on for this. Please let me know!